



CALIFORNIA CHIEF
PREPARES FOR HOT
WILDFIRE SEASON

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ARUBA, KLM MAKE
HISTORY TOGETHER
WITH GREEN FLIGHT

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On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Monday, May 19, 2014



One Smart Island
SITE Forum Hosts Top Industry Leaders, Students

PALM BEACH - SITE Florida & Caribbean, a chapter of the Society of Incentive Travel Executives hosted its annual Educational Forum at the Marriott Aruba Resort & Stellaris Casino, inviting local hospitality executives, university students and local secondary education students, for an interactive and engaging learning experience. The Educational Forum began with a continental breakfast and registration, followed by keynote speaker Katherine Manfredi, GMIC, who discussed Sustainability Practices and Green Meetings for incentive destinations and planners interested in incentive trends.

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Talks in East Aim at Easing Tensions in Ukraine

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SITE Educational Forum hosts top industry leaders, students

Continued from front

Dahlton Bennington, Meetings and Motivation in Florida, addressed The New Norm in Motivation and Incentive Business, while Doyle Girouard, Cypress Group, talked about Incentives from Beginning to End, when is it really over?! Sumptuous lunch for Friday's event was served courtesy of the culinary brigade of the Marriott Aruba Resort & Stellaris Casino. The occasion include the exclusive unveiling of Gain InSite Caribbean, an exciting Member to Member business model, with Myrna Jansen, senior advisor to the Minister of Tourism in attendance. Two sessions in the afternoon, one by Doyle Girouard, Cypress Group, continued his morning address, and to conclude the day the panel of speakers expertly



described Customer Service for Incentives, and the ever demanding changes of business today. A congenial reception and a certificate ceremony followed sponsored by the Aruba Tourism Authority. SITE, the host organization is first of all a network of incentive and meeting professionals. Site members are part of an international community, benefiting from great networking which facilitates the challenge of finding business

opportunities, exchanging information and knowledge with other business partners. SITE is an important partner of the Aruba tourism industry wishing to claim its share in the MICE, Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions industry. Wichita Villacres, President,



ECO Destination Management Services of Aruba & Curaçao, who is the President of the 2014 SITE Florida and Caribbean chapter, announced educational forum in Aruba, in an effort to bring educational content to the Caribbean. Villacres whose life-long career in tourism is closely intertwined with the island of Aruba became President of the 2014 SITE Florida and Caribbean chapter, at the beginning of the year, as the first ever, new President, proud to represent Aruba. In her role as President and ECO of Destination Man-

agement Services of Aruba & Curaçao, Wichita has been a member of SITE for 25 years, and she actively participated and formed

part of one SITE university, one SITE conference in Aruba, and one SITE conference in Orlando.

Additionally, she has attended at least 20 of these conferences worldwide, including: Maui, Ireland, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Orlando, NYC, Cancun, Montreal, Beijing-China, and more. As board member of the original Caribbean Chapter, she brought the Florida Chapter closer to incentive planners from Canada, becoming the liaison between the two sister chapters, which are the two first chapters to launch the novel Gain Insite program. □



McDonough: Obama angry over falsification of VA data

BRIAN KNOWLTON

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama is "madder than hell" about reports that some medical facilities run by the Department of Veterans Affairs have falsified data to hide substantial delays for veterans to see doctors, and he has demanded that the department's leaders "fix these things," the White House chief of staff said in an interview aired Sunday. "The president is madder than hell, and I've got the scars to prove it, given the briefings that I've given the president" on the subject, the chief of staff, Denis R. McDonough, said on the CBS News program "Face the Nation."

He said that the White House had "deployed additional staff over to the Veterans administration to dig into this, to find out if this is a series of isolated cases or whether this is a systemic issue that we need to address with wholesale reform." He also called attention to what he said had been substantial increases in resources

devoted to veterans care under Obama.

Veterans groups have expressed mounting anger over reports that workers at some medical centers kept secret waiting lists to disguise what could be waits of months by veterans to see doctors. The department's inspector general is working with federal prosecutors to ascertain whether criminal violations have occurred.

"We realize that the administration has done a lot for the veterans, but that isn't the issue," Dan Dellinger, director of the American Legion, said on CBS. He said that under the Veterans Affairs secretary, Eric K. Shinseki, "Accountability hasn't been there," adding that there had been "egregious mismanagement of the entire system." McDonough gave no indication that the president was considering dismissing Shinseki, despite calls from several Republican lawmakers and some veterans that he do so.

Asked whether Shinseki retained the president's full confidence and was the

right person to lead any reforms, McDonough replied that "he will continue to work these issues until

the matter, McDonough replied: "Nobody is more outraged about this problem right now, Major, than

The interview was taped Friday, a day after Shinseki, in testimony before a Senate committee, declared



White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough attends a news conference at the White House in Washington. President Barack Obama is "madder than hell" about reports that some medical facilities run by the Department of Veterans Affairs have falsified data to hide substantial delays for veterans to see doctors, and he has demanded that the department's leaders "fix these things," the White House chief of staff said in an interview aired Sunday.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

they're fixed." When a CBS interviewer, Major Garrett, pressed McDonough about why the president had not publicly addressed

the president of the United States. And he will continue to press as it relates to this question of timely access to care until it is fixed."

that he himself was "mad as hell" about the reported allegations but said that he had no intention of resigning. □

Commencement speaker calls students immature, arrogant

HAVERFORD, Pa. (AP) — A commencement speaker on Sunday blasted college students as "immature" and "arrogant" for protesting another speaker who then decided to withdraw.

William Bowen, former president of Princeton University, used his commencement speech at Haverford College outside Philadelphia to criticize students who campaigned against Robert Birgeneau, former chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley.

Birgeneau is among several commencement speakers who canceled their appearances this spring amid student protests.

More than 40 students and three professors had protested Birgeneau's invitation to speak, objecting to his handling of a 2011 incident at Berkeley in which police used force at a student protest during the Occupy movement. The group

wanted Birgeneau to apologize, support payments for victims and write a letter to Haverford students explaining his position on the events and "what you learned from them." Birgeneau, who was also supposed to receive an honorary degree from Haverford, refused those demands and others in a terse email. Bowen chastised students in his speech for driving Birgeneau away. The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. "I am disappointed that those who wanted to criticize Birgeneau's handling of events at Berkeley chose to send him such an intemperate list of 'demands,'" Bowen said Sunday. "In my view, they should have encouraged him to come and engage in a genuine discussion, not to come, tail between his legs, to respond to an indictment that a self-chosen jury had reached without hearing counterarguments." □

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California governor prepares for worst wildfire season



A plane drops fire retardant in the area of Harmony Grove in Escondido, Calif. Drought-stricken California is preparing for its worst wildfire season ever, the state's governor said Sunday.
(AP Photo/U-T San Diego, Howard Lipin)

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press
ESCONDIDO, California
(AP) — Drought-stricken California is preparing for its worst wildfire season ever, the state's governor said Sunday.

Gov. Jerry Brown told ABC television's "This Week" that the nearly dozen wildfires that caused more than \$20 million in damage mark only the beginning. The state has 5,000 firefighters and has appropriated \$600 million to battling blazes, but that may not be enough in the future.

"We're getting ready for the worst," Brown said. "Now, we don't want to anticipate before we know, but we need a full complement of firefighting capacity."

He added that thousands of additional firefighters may be needed in the future, saying California is on the "front lines" of climate change that is making its weather hotter.

"And in the years to come, we're going to have to make very expensive investments and adjust. And the people are going to have to be careful of how they live, how they build their homes and what kind of vegetation is allowed to grow around them.

Unusually high temperatures, low humidity and gusty winds set conditions last week for the string of wildfires that broke out in San Diego County.

"Normally, I don't even put wildfire gear in my vehicle until the end of April. This year I never took it out," Kirk Kushen, battalion chief of the Kern County Fire Department, said at a base camp in Escondido. "We never really completed the 2013 fire season. It's been a continuation."

At least 10 fires spanning 39 square miles (101 million square kilometers) chewed a destructive path through San Diego County, destroying 11 houses, an 18-unit apartment complex and two businesses. A badly burned body was found in a transient camp, and one firefighter suffered heat exhaustion.

The last of tens of thousands of evacuees returned home Saturday after firefighters scoured charred hillsides north of San Diego to guard against a resurgence of flames that ripped through the region. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has responded to more than 1,500 fires this year, compared with about 800 during an average year.

The first blaze in San Diego started Tuesday and was caused by a spark from construction equipment, according to state officials, but it could take months to get to the bottom of the most damaging fires. Alberto Serrato, 57, pleaded not guilty Friday to an arson charge in connection with one of the smaller fires, but authorities say they don't believe he started it, just added brush to it.

In the Central California city of Modesto, a fire fueled by hot weather and high winds on Friday quickly spread to a row of town houses, destroying three of the structures and damaging six others. Authorities said the blaze started on the grassy berm of a freeway project frequented by homeless people.

Ocean breezes and lower temperatures over the weekend allowed firefighters to get the upper hand on a 4-square-mile (10.4-square-kilometer) blaze that started in the suburb of San Marcos and three fires at the Camp Pendleton Marines base. Firefighters doused remaining hotspots with hoses and water-filled backpacks, sawed large logs and raked soil with shovels and other hand tools to ensure the ground was moist enough to prevent fires from returning.

Kushen, who was working his 10th straight day and was nearly 27 hours into his shift as his team prepared to go rest at a hotel, saw between 15 and 20 destroyed houses or other structures while combing the hills in and around San Marcos for smoke and smoldering brush. □

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GOP Chairman: Clinton's health, age fair issues



John Ryder, left, the Republican National Committee's general counsel, and Reince Priebus, the chairman, at the Renaissance hotel in Washington. Priebus said Sunday that Hillary Rodham Clinton's health and age were fair targets for inquiry ahead of a possible 2016 presidential run, as both he and Karl Rove suggested that such scrutiny might dissuade her from running.

(Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

BRIAN KNOWLTON

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WASHINGTON - Reince Priebus, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, said Sunday that Hillary Rodham Clinton's health and age were fair targets for inquiry ahead of a possible 2016 presidential run, as both he and Karl Rove, the Republican strategist who injected those questions into the debate, suggested that such scrutiny might dissuade her from running.

Rove infuriated Democrats recently when he said that Clinton might have suffered a "traumatic brain injury" in a late 2012 fall in which she sustained a concussion. She was hospitalized for a few days for a blood clot, but she and her husband, President Bill Clinton, have said that her recovery was complete. Priebus, asked on the NBC program "Meet the Press" whether he believed that lingering effects of the injury could impede Hillary Clinton's abilities to serve as president, replied: "I'm not a doctor. What I do know is that the issue is going to come up, as it does for any person running for president."

He added, "The issues that I talked about are going to be the issues that make her unacceptable" to voters, and he said he did not

think she would run "if she has another month like she's just had."

Rove, whose original comment drew scorching retorts from Democrats as a hardly subtle effort to undercut that party's presumed frontrunner for 2016, said Sunday that he was not questioning Clinton's health, but rather "whether or not it's a done deal if she's running."

In a panel discussion on the program "Fox News Sunday," he noted that Clinton would be 69 at the time of the 2016 election and 77 at the end of a possible second term.

"She would not be human if she did not take this into consideration," he said.

Should Clinton run and be elected, she would be about eight months younger than the oldest president, Ronald Reagan, when taking office.

The Rove remarks drew sharp new criticism from Democrats on Sunday.

Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, who favors a Clinton presidential run, said on NBC that Rove was "struggling to stay relevant" but that "Karl Rove engaging in cheap shots is not going to frighten Hillary Clinton."

And Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, who backed Clinton in her 2008 nomination contest against Barack Obama, dismissed Rove's

comments as "pathetic." "In my view, she's in the prime of her political life," Feinstein said, appearing on the CNN program "State of the Union." "She has got the energy," she said. "She's articulate. She's got the background. She's got the smarts. She has all of the elements of a good leader." Feinstein said that she had personally counseled Clinton against declaring her candidacy too early, given her high favorability ratings among Democrats, "because somebody would do the stupid things that Karl Rove has just done." The senator dismissed Republican efforts to further investigate the deadly September 2012 attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, as "ridiculous." □

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Obama Cabinet may be boost for rising Texas mayor

EMILY SCHMALL
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — President Barack Obama's expected nomination of San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro as secretary of Housing and Urban Development could test the 39-year-old's ability to navigate Washington ahead of the 2016 election, Texas Democrats say.

Since giving the 2012 keynote address at the Democratic National Convention, Castro's star has been on the rise, with his name often included among possible vice presidential contenders.

"This is an important step for Julian," Henry Cisneros, a HUD secretary under President Bill Clinton and a former mayor of San Antonio, told The Associated Press. "If indeed he has the capability to be what we all think he can be," Cisneros said, he can prove it by performing well at the helm of the federal housing agency.

Job performance aside, Castro's background could be his main selling point.

He and his twin brother, U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, grew up on the West Side of San Antonio in a working-class Mexican-American neighborhood. They were raised by their single mother, a prominent Latino rights activist in the 1960s and 1970s,

and their grandmother, who crossed the border from Mexico as a child.

If Julian Castro is nominated to preside over HUD and confirmed by the Senate, he would become one of the highest-ranking Hispanic

vanize a grassroots effort in Texas to turn the historically Republican-dominated state into a place where Democrats can be competitive.

While neither Castro brother speaks Spanish fluently,

where he came from, Cisneros says.

"This is a poor city, so it means a lot that a person who's going to be in public service is living the reality. He has never strayed far from his roots," Cisneros

guidance on college; and initiated revitalization of some of San Antonio's most downtrodden neighborhoods.

Castro also worked on San Antonio's "Promise Zone" program. That federal government initiative aims to revitalize high-poverty communities by increasing economic activity, improving educational opportunities and leveraging private capital.

HUD plays a key role in the "Promise Zone" initiative and San Antonio was among the first cities that received a grant for the program from the administration.

Newt Gingrich, a former Republican congressman from Georgia, said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union" that Castro would be "a good political pick for the president, it is a smart pick." But Gingrich noted that it likely signals the conservative state won't be turning Democratic anytime soon.

Obama's anticipated nomination of Castro as secretary of HUD also could be a symbolic passing of the baton.

In many ways, the two men's stories mirror one another's: Both are minorities raised by single mothers, attended Harvard Law School and saw their political careers ascend rapidly after giving lauded keynote speeches at Democratic National Conventions. □



San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, who is expected to become the new secretary of housing and urban development, looks on as President Barack Obama speaks in Austin, Texas. Obama intends to name Castro to his cabinet, raising Castro's national profile before the 2016 election.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

ic officials in the Obama administration.

"That says a lot. He carries with him the hopes and dreams and prayers of the entire Latino population," said U.S. Rep. Pete Gallego, a Texas Democrat.

Gallego also thinks a Castro nomination would gal-

both became well-versed in politics at an early age when their mother, Rosie, took them to political rallies and meetings.

"She literally taught them in her lap," said Cisneros, who has known Rosie Castro since meeting her in kindergarten.

With the housing market's lackluster recovery, if Julian Castro is named housing secretary, it will matter

said.

Castro earned an undergraduate degree at Stanford University and a law degree at Harvard before returning to San Antonio to become, at age 26, the city's youngest councilman.

As mayor, Castro spearheaded a voter-approved preschool program; set up a walk-in center for high school students seeking

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US Financial Front:

Poorer health of patients on Medicaid may raise costs

WASHINGTON - Surgery patients covered by Medicaid arrive at the hospital in worse health, experience more complications, stay longer and cost more than patients with private insurance, a new study has found.

The study, by researchers at the University of Michigan, may offer a preview of what to expect as millions of uninsured people qualify for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Although Medicaid patients in the study were generally younger than the privately insured patients, they were twice as likely to smoke and had higher

rates of conditions that made surgery riskier.

The study, published this month in the journal JAMA Surgery, analyzed data on nearly 14,000 patients who had operations at 52 hospitals in Michigan from July 2012 to June 2013.

Dr. Darrell A. Campbell Jr., chief medical officer of the University of Michigan Health System, who led the study, said: "The Medicaid patients were sicker, and they did not do as well following surgery. They stayed in the hospital longer, and that increases the cost."

Michigan has just expanded Medicaid, and nearly half a million people may



Sandra Lynch, who got health insurance for the first time in a decade under the Affordable Care Act, has hernia surgery in Louisville, Ky. New research shows that Medicaid patients arrive at hospitals in worse health and experience more complications from surgery -- a preview of what doctors may expect as millions of the formerly uninsured reenter the medical system.

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

interview. "For a diabetic, if blood sugar is out of control, that increases the chances of a wound infection after surgery. If we can address these issues pre-operatively, we can cut down the problems we see after an operation."

About half the states have expanded Medicaid, and the White House is urging others to do so.

The Michigan researchers reported these findings:

- In the month after their operations, the Medicaid patients had two-thirds more complications and were more than twice as likely to die, compared with those on private insurance.

- Medicaid patients typically needed extra time in the hospital - three days, on average, rather than two - and were more likely to return after being discharged.

- Medicaid patients "had more emergency operations and used 50 percent more hospital resources than patients with other kinds of insurance." □

AT&T agrees to buy DirecTV in \$48.5B deal

DALLAS (AP) — AT&T Inc. on Sunday agreed to buy DirecTV for \$48.5 billion, or \$95 per share, a move that gives the telecommunications company a larger base of video subscribers and increases its ability to compete against Comcast and Time Warner Cable, which agreed to a merger in February.

AT&T's proposed combination, which is subject to government review, could improve its Internet service by pushing its existing U-verse TV subscribers into video-over-satellite service, and thereby free up bandwidth on its telecommunications network.

AT&T currently offers a high-speed Internet plan in a bundle with DirecTV television service. The acquisition would help it further reap the benefits of that alliance.

With 5.7 million U-verse TV customers and 20.3 million DirecTV customers in the U.S., the combined

entity would serve 26 million. That would make it the second-largest pay TV operator behind a combined Comcast-Time Warner Cable, which would serve 30 million. The companies expect the deal to close within 12 months. Under the terms agreed to Sunday, DirecTV shareholders will receive \$28.50 per share in cash and \$66.50 per share in AT&T stock. The total transaction value is \$67.1 billion, including DirecTV's net debt. The deal could face tough scrutiny from the Federal Communications Commission and antitrust regulators at the Department of Justice.

Unlike Comcast Corp. and Time Warner Cable — which don't compete in the same territory — AT&T's U-verse, offered in 22 states, does compete directly for TV customers with DirecTV, which is available nationwide.

The combination would reduce consumers' options

for pay TV providers from four to three for about 25 percent of U.S. households, according to Morgan Stanley analyst Ben Swinburne. Fewer competitors could result in higher prices, a situation that usually gives regulators cause for concern. □

become eligible. Since the state began taking applications on April 1, more than 237,000 people have enrolled.

"We supported the expansion of Medicaid because it means that we can get patients into medical care and get them into optimum shape for an operation," Campbell said in an

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Battle over genetically modified foods hits Oregon

JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press

ASHLAND, Oregon (AP) — Unable to find a good solution to protecting their certified organic seed crops from potential contamination from genetically engineered crops, small organic farmers in this Oregon valley are appealing to a higher power: voters. They wanted to protect their crops from being cross-pollinated by genetically modified ones, and asked voters in two counties to ban the cultivation of GMOs — a move that would drive producer Syngenta out of the Rogue Valley where the Swiss company grows seed for sugar beets resistant to the popular weed killer Round-up. Mail-in ballots will be counted in Jackson and Josephine counties on Tuesday. The vote is the latest example of a growing resistance to GMOs from Hawaii to Vermont at a time when genetically modified crops dominate the production of commodities like sugar beets, corn and soybeans. There is no mainstream

scientific evidence of a health risk. "People are becoming more aware of the fact that food in this country is genetically engineered, and they are starting to look into what that might mean in terms of health and the environment," said Laura Murphy of the Environmental & Natural Resources Law Clinic at Vermont Law School. Big agribusinesses, spending millions, and GMO opponents have traded victories in recent years. This month, Vermont's governor signed a law to make the state the first requiring disclosure of GMO ingredients in food labels, starting in 2016. The National Conference of State Legislatures reports 84 genetically modified food labeling bills are pending in 30 states. Since 2004, counties in California, Hawaii and Washington state have adopted bans. In 2012, agribusiness groups defeated ballot measures in California and Washington state to require statewide GMO food labeling. There is now an effort in Oregon to ask vot-

ers to require GMO food labeling. In Washington, a bill to nullify state labeling requirements is pending in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Oregon vote is

2012, when Chris Hardy tried to lease some land and learned it was right next to a field leased to Syngenta. It soon became clear Syngenta was spread

with the ballot measure. Syngenta, a Swiss company with \$14.7 billion in worldwide sales, has been joined by other agricultural giants like Monsanto Co.,



Chuck Burr cultivates a row of onions on his organic seed farm outside Ashland, Ore. Organic farmers are asking voters in Jackson and Josephine counties to adopt a ban on cultivating genetically engineered crops, which organic farmers fear could cross-pollinate with some of their crops.
(AP Photo/Jeff Barnard)

the latest battle over the future of agriculture. It is set in this picturesque 41-mile (66-kilometer)-long valley near the California border, where Syngenta has operated in near anonymity since 1993, and organic farmers have tapped a growing demand for local produce free of pesticides. Organic farmers realized they had a problem in

throughout the valley. Farmers started gathering signatures for a ballot measure banning GMOs, and asked Oregon State University Extension to help create a mapping system so GMO and organic crops would each be free of the other's pollen. After about six months, talks broke down, and the organic farmers went ahead

sugar producers like Amalgamated Sugar, timber companies and farm bureaus as far away as Texas. They have pooled more than \$900,000 to defeat the measures. Their media campaign has focused on convincing voters that enforcing the ban would divert scarce revenues away from sheriff's patrols and jails. □



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Coffee fungus raising prices for high-end blends

MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government is stepping up efforts to help Central American farmers fight a devastating coffee disease — and hold down the price for a cup of coffee. At issue is a fungus called coffee rust that has caused more than \$1 billion in damage across Latin America. The fungus is especially deadly to Arabica coffee, the bean that makes up most high-end, specialty coffees. Already, it is affecting the price of some of those coffees in the United States. "We are concerned because we know coffee rust is already causing massive

amounts of devastation," said Raj Shah, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development. On Monday, Shah was expected to announce a \$5 million partnership with Texas A&M University's World Coffee Research center to try to eliminate the fungus. But the government isn't doing this just to protect specialty coffees, as much as Americans love them. The chief concern is about the economic security of these small farms abroad. If farmers lose their jobs, it increases hunger and poverty in the region and contributes to violence and drug trafficking. Washington estimates that production could be down

anywhere from 15 percent to 40 percent in coming years, and that those losses could mean as many as 500,000 people could lose their jobs. Though some countries have brought the fungus under control, many of the poorer coffee-producing countries in Latin America don't see the rust problem getting better anytime soon. Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica have all been hard hit. Much of the blander, mass-produced coffee in this country comes from Asia and other regions. Most of the richer, more expensive coffees are from small, high altitude farms in Central America. □

Bosnia flooding triggers landslides, unearth mines

SABINA NIKSIC
JOVANA GEC
Associated Press

BRCKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Floodwaters triggered more than 3,000 landslides across the Bal-

power plant, which supplies electricity to a third of the country and most of the capital, Belgrade. Authorities organized a frenzied helicopter airlift to get terrified families to

minister, Adil Osmanovic. Three months' worth of rain fell on the region in three days, producing the worst floods since rainfall measurements began 120 years ago. At least two dozen

mated 2,100 landslides that covered roads, homes and whole villages throughout hilly Bosnia. Another 1,000 landslides were reported in neighboring Serbia.

The cities of Orasje and Brcko in northeast Bosnia, where the Sava River forms the natural border with Croatia, were in danger of being overwhelmed. Officials in Brcko ordered six villages to be evacuated. Rescuers urged people to go to the balconies or rooftops of their houses with bright fabric to make themselves visible.

Brcko Mayor Anto Domic said that unless the Bosnian Army is able to reinforce from the air, the city will be flooded completely. He called for the Defense Ministry to use helicopters to lower steel barriers that could be backed by sandbags to contain the water. "It is a very demanding task," he said, acknowledging that officials would have no other way to protect the port city of more than 70,000.

Civil protection commander Fahrudin Solak said the Sava River was spilling over

another portion of the flood barrier in Orasje while emergency workers tried desperately to reinforce it with sandbags.

In Serbia, where floods have inundated towns and villages, authorities braced for high water that could last for several more days. Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said Sunday that 12 bodies have been found so far in Obrenovac, site of the coal-fired Nikola Tesla power plant, Serbia's biggest.

Parts of the plant and a nearby mine that provides its fuel were underwater.

Serbia's state power company, EPS, said crews were doing all they could to prevent any further damage to the plant. Damage to the mine alone is estimated at more than 100 million euros (\$137 million).

Serbia's energy minister, Aleksandar Antic, appealed to people to conserve power, calling the threat to the plant "very serious." The floods and landslides raised fears about the estimated 1 million land mines planted during Bosnia's 1992-95 war. □



People paddle boats down a flooded street in Obrenovac, some 30 kilometers (18 miles) southwest of Belgrade, Serbia, Sunday, May 18, 2014. In Serbia, more than 20,000 people have been forced from their homes. Officials there fear more flooding later Sunday as floodwaters travel down the Sava and reach the country. Serbian officials said that the flood wave might be lower than initially expected, because the river broke barriers upstream in Croatia and Bosnia. Experts said they expect Sava floodwaters to rise for two more days, then subside.

(AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

kans on Sunday, laying waste to entire towns and villages and disturbing land mines leftover from the region's 1990s war, along with warning signs that marked the unexploded weapons. The Balkans' worst flooding since record keeping began forced tens of thousands of people from their homes and threatened to inundate Serbia's main

safety before the water swallowed up their homes. Many were plucked from rooftops. Floodwaters receded Sunday in some locations, laying bare the full scale of the damage. Elsewhere, emergency management officials warned that the water would keep rising into Sunday night. "The situation is catastrophic," said Bosnia's refugee


people have died, with more casualties expected. The rain caused an esti-






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Swiss voters reject minimum wage, jets

JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Worried about upsetting Switzerland's strong economy or driving its high costs even higher, more than three-quarters of Swiss voters rejected a plan Sunday to create the world's highest minimum wage and slightly more than half spurned a request to outfit the Swiss Air Force with 22 new fighter jets.

A tally by Swiss TV showed

At a news conference in the Swiss capital Bern, members of the Federal Council of seven ministers, which includes the president, confirmed the vote results. They welcomed the decision on the minimum wage proposal. Trade unions had proposed it as a way of fighting poverty in a country that, by some measures, features the world's highest prices and most expensive cities. But opinion polls had in-

where less qualified people have a harder time finding jobs," he said. "The best remedy against poverty is work."

The proposal would have eclipsed the existing highest minimum wages in force elsewhere in Europe. Switzerland has no minimum wage, but the median hourly wage is about 33 francs (\$37) an hour. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which ad-

Talks in the East aim to ease Ukraine tensions

DAVID M. HERSZENHORN
© 2014 New York Times News

KIEV, Ukraine - Senior Ukrainian officials this weekend held a second session of national "round-table" talks aimed at ending the country's political crisis, this time in the eastern city of Kharkiv, in the region that has been besieged by pro-Russian separatist violence.

The meeting brought together a broader cross-section of leaders from eastern Ukraine than the first set of talks, in an attempt to show the government's commitment to dialogue. But representatives of the region said it would be difficult to resolve the crisis until the government ended military operations aimed at suppressing the separatists. "This is the only option in my opinion that can save Ukraine from division," said Valeriy N. Holenko, chairman of Luhansk Regional Council.

Leaders in Kiev are pushing to tighten Ukraine's ties with Europe, while many in the east prefer closer ties with Russia. At times, the officials from the east disagreed strenuously with representatives of the provisional government from Kiev, highlighting still formidable differences. But Western observers said it was important that the two sides finally seemed engaged, rather than talking past each other.

The talks are largely aimed at reaching an accord on restructuring the government to increase local authority, ahead of a presidential election scheduled May 25. Kiev supports a "decentralization" plan to give more budget authority to local governments, while the pro-Russia side from the east favors a federalization model that would give more overall power to governors.

The acting prime minister, Arseniy P. Yatsenyuk, said officials in Kiev were pushing ahead with the decentralization plan, but that the federalization proposal by Russia and its supporters seemed aimed at dividing the country by empowering regional governors who might be loyal to Moscow. "There was one Yanukovych," he said sharply on Saturday, referring to the ousted, pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovych. "Now they want to have 27 Yanukovychs."

There were repeated calls on each side for restoring order and security in eastern Ukraine, with local and regional officials saying Kiev should first withdraw its security forces, and Kiev officials saying that separatist militias should lay down their weapons.

Even so, there were reports of continued scattered violence in the eastern region Saturday, including an exchange of gunfire near the Russian border after the governor of the self-declared separatist Luhansk People's Republic was briefly detained by Ukrainian border guards early Saturday morning. Local news services reported that the governor, Valery Bolotov, was freed after the shootout and had returned to a local government building, with no casualties reported during the gunfight. Bolotov was returning to Ukraine after seeking medical treatment in Russia for injuries from what an official in the Luhansk People's Republic said was an assassination attempt. □



Persons watch first results of referendums in Bern Switzerland Sunday May 18, 2014. Worried about upsetting Switzerland's strong economy or driving its high costs even higher, more than three-quarters of Swiss voters rejected a plan Sunday to create the world's highest minimum wage and slightly more than half spurned a request to outfit the Swiss Air Force with 22 new fighter jets.
(AP Photo/Keystone, Peter Klaunzer)

that with votes counted in all 26 of the Alpine nation's cantons (states), the Swiss trade union's idea of making the minimum wage 22 Swiss francs (\$24.70) per hour fell flat by a vote of 76.3 percent opposed and 23.7 percent in favor. The military's controversial request to spend 3.1 billion francs (\$3.5 billion) for Saab's new Gripen fighter jets was narrowly defeated, with 53.4 percent against it and 46.6 percent who supported the purchase.

dedicated that most voters sided with the council and business leaders, who argued it would cost jobs and erode economic competitiveness, driving Switzerland's high costs even higher.

"A fixed salary has never been a good way to fight the problem," Economy Minister Johann Schneider-Ammann said in Bern.

"If the initiative had been accepted, it would have led to workplace losses, especially in rural areas

justs figures for spending power, lists the highest current minimum wage as Luxembourg's at \$10.66 an hour, followed by France at \$10.60, Australia at \$10.21, Belgium at \$9.97, and the Netherlands at \$9.48. The U.S. wage, an adjusted \$7.11 down from the actual \$7.25 rate, came 10th on the list. Adjusted for its high prices, Switzerland's wage proposal would have represented about \$14 an hour based on a 42-hour work week. □

3 face charges in Turkey mine disaster amid anger

DESMOND BUTLER
Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — In the face of widespread anger over Turkey's worst mining disaster, prosecutors arrested three people, including a company manager, on charges of negligence Sunday.

The three were also accused of causing the death of more than one person, a charge that doesn't imply intent, prosecutor Bekir Sahiner said at a news conference in the western town of Soma, where 301 coal miners were killed in Tuesday's tragedy.

The arrests follow allegations by miners that the company failed to heed safety concerns and that government inspections had been superficial. The disaster has provoked anger at a critical time for Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, as he mulls running in August's presidential election.

A total of 25 people were initially detained for ques-

tioning and six were later released, Sahiner said. Prosecutors will now decide whether to charge or release the remaining 16 people in custody.

Sahiner said one of those arrested was the company's operations manager. The manager is Akin Celik, though Sahiner didn't identify him by name.

The charges can lead to sentences of between three and 15 years in prison, according to the Turkish penal code.

Other company executives were among the detained as Turkish officials investigate the mining disaster. Sahiner said they included the mine's technical supervisor, its head of operations, its safety manager, duty managers and a high ranking company executive. The Dogan news agency reported earlier that Ramazan Dogru, general manager of the mine owned by Soma Holding was detained. □



Miners close an entrance to their coal mine in Soma, Turkey, Sunday, May 18, 2014. Eighteen people, including company executives, have been detained as Turkish officials investigate the mining disaster that killed 301 people, a domestic news agency reported Sunday.

(AP Photo/Depo Photos)

Egypt:

Courts convict 170 in mass trials

HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A pair of Egyptian courts on Sunday convicted 170 suspected supporters of toppled President Mohammed Morsi on charges related to violent attacks last year, the country's latest mass trials ahead of this month's presidential elections.

The convictions in the courts in Cairo and in the Nile Delta city of Kafr el-Sheikh are the latest in a series over recent months that saw hundreds of people prosecutors identified as Morsi supporters sentenced to death or imprisonment.

In some cases, the verdicts came after no more than two hearings, drawing criticism from human rights activists and foreign governments as Egypt's military-backed interim government continues its crackdown on Morsi supporters and his Muslim Brotherhood group.

The Kafr el-Sheikh court convicted 127 people of storming and torching a church, a police station and a sports stadium to avenge the killing of hundreds of Islamists when security forces ended two sit-in protests in Cairo by Morsi supporters in August, according to a statement by the office of Egypt's top prosecutor. They were sentenced to 10 years in prison each. Five minors, all 17 years old, each received a one-year suspended sentence in the same case, the statement said.

The second court in Cairo sentenced 37 people to 15 years in prison each for their part in an attempt to blow up a subway station in Cairo last year, in addition to charges of vandalism, illegal possession of explosives, arms and ammunition along with disrupting public and private transport, said the statement from the chief prosecutor's office. □



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Anti-Chinese protests end in Vietnam

JANE PERLEZ

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HANOI, Vietnam - The Vietnamese government stopped anti-Chinese demonstrators from gathering outside the Chinese Embassy here Sunday, deploying a large number of police officers on the sidewalks around the building and urging the few pedes-

trians to keep walking.

In Ho Chi Minh City, the Chinese consulate was under heavy police guard, and squads of officers in green uniforms and helmets stood by, effectively ending almost a week of anti-Chinese violence in several provinces that was inspired by the positioning of a Chinese deep water

oil rig in disputed waters of the South China Sea.

The government, embarrassed by violence that destroyed factories run by Taiwanese and South Korean companies, killed two Chinese workers and injured more than 100 others, said Saturday that demonstrators would be arrested and prosecuted. □



Chinese laborers recover at a hospital after being injured by Vietnamese protesters at a steel plant owned by Taiwan's Formosa Plastics Group, in Ha Tinh, Vietnam. The government said this weekend that demonstrators would be arrested and prosecuted.

(Adam Ferguson/The New York Times)

Colombia: FARC, government reach an agreement on drugs

ANNE-MARIE GARCIA

LIBARDO CARDONA

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Colombia's government and main rebel group this weekend announced an agreement to jointly combat illicit drugs in the South American country, which was long the world's leading cocaine producer.

Under the accord, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC, agreed to divorce itself completely from the drug trade.

DEA and Colombian authorities have said that some FARC fronts are involved in the production and sales of drugs to Mexican and Colombian traffickers and through Venezuelan intermediaries. In the past, the FARC had denied any involvement in trafficking, claiming it only taxes producers. Peru recently overtook Colombia in cultivation of coca, the crop used to produce cocaine. "What we have agreed upon recognizes that in order to set the bases for a stable and lasting peace in Colombia it is necessary to find a definitive solution to the problem of illicit drugs," said statement from the talks read at a news conference in Havana.

It was the latest agreement reached during months of talks in the Cuban capital. The two sides earlier reached accords on agrarian reform and the political participation for the FARC, but none of them will take effect until all items on the agenda for negotiations are settled. The FARC is the Western Hemisphere's last remaining major leftist insurgency, having taken up arms a half century ago.

The announcement comes a little more than a week before elections in Colombia, involving incumbent President Juan Manuel Santos, who launched the peace talks, and his main challenger, Oscar Ivan Zuluaga, who opposes them. Zuluaga, a protege of former President Alvaro Uribe, argues that the FARC needs to end hostilities for talks to continue and should not be permitted into national politics.

Earlier in the day, the FARC and Colombia's other main rebel group, the National Liberation Army, issued an unusual joint statement declaring a halt in fighting for eight days, from May 20-28, around Colombia's May 25 presidential election. Rebels have tried to disrupt past presidential elections and often dismiss Colombia's electoral politics as a sport dominated by the country's elites, so the cease-fire appears to be a vote of confidence in the Havana-based peace talks launched in November 2012 by Santos. The FARC also declared a cease-fire during March legislative elections.

Santos, who is seeking reelection, has been under attack from his main rivals for breaking with the policy of Uribe, whose relentless, U.S.-backed military pressure had seriously weakened the guerrilla forces. Conservative Party candidate Marta Lucia Ramirez said the rebel announcement "is a cease-fire in which the FARC joins the presidential campaign" of Santos.

Zuluaga, running second behind Santos in most polls, said that "the halt to criminal actions should be indefinite and verifiable." □

Brazil inmates end prison revolt, free hostages

SAO PAULO (AP) — Inmates released four prison officers Sunday after holding them hostage for more than a day during an uprising at a Brazilian penitentiary in the northeastern city of Aracaju.

Authorities said they had met the rebellious inmates' main demand that some prisoners be transferred to other jails.

Nearly 130 relatives of prisoners who had arrived Saturday for visits at the prison and got caught up in the uprising were also allowed to leave, said Mauricio Lunes, commanding officer

for the military police in the state of Sergipe, home to Aracaju.

Legal counsel Sandra Melo said the family members had not been threatened, but they were trapped while inmates held the prison officers hostage. Melo is the legal adviser for the company Fundacao Reviver, which runs the Advogado Antonio Jacinto Filho prison complex housing 476 inmates.

Lunes said officials agreed to transfer some of the inmates out of the maximum-security prison. That was the key demand behind

the uprising that erupted at midday Saturday in one of the wings of the penitentiary.

"We managed to control the situation before it was extended to other areas of the prison," Lunes told TV Globo's G1, a Brazilian Internet news portal. Two officers had minor wounds. About 500,000 inmates are held in Brazil's more than 1,200 prisons, and uprisings are common. In 2012, inmates at the same prison held 131 hostages for 26 hours to demand an investigation into alleged beatings by guards. □



Aruba and KLM are writing history:

KLM flies to Aruba using a 20% blend of cooking oil

ORANJESTAD – Last week, Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman received the KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Airbus that just completed a 10-hour flight from Amsterdam to Aruba using sustainable jet fuel. This marks the longest biofuel flight to date by an Airbus aircraft and another step forward on the journey to more sustainable aviation, by reducing CO2 emissions and fuel consumption.

The Airbus flew with a 20% blend of sustainable fuel made of used cooking oil as the first of a series called "Initiative Towards sustainable Kerosene for Aviation" (ITAKA), which aims to speed up the commer-



was also on the flight with the winners of the Green Aruba Challenge.

The Green Aruba Challenge is an initiative of KLM Innovations, directed at looking for promising sustainable solutions for a better world that can be implemented on Aruba with support from KLM. In April, KLM challenged innovators to send their concepts to the greenaruba.klm.com platform. The Green Aruba Challenge represents a perfect match between KLM and Aruba, because of Aruba's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2020 and KLM's ambition to reduce CO2 emissions by 20% by 2020.

The submitters of the five best concepts were invited by KLM and Aruba to present their ideas to a panel of judges consisting of Mike Eman, Camiel Eurlings, several CEO's and high-level local experts today May 17th at the Dr. Edward Cheung Aruba Center for Innovation.

Ideas were submitted from various parts of the world and on May 9th, twelve selected participants were asked to give a presentation at the KLM headquarters in Amstelveen for KLM's top executive Wim de Jong and Aruba Minister Plenipotentiary in The Hague Alfonso Boekhoudt. The finalists are: Maarten von Wining with "Minipower," Jan Tijs Nijssen and Jurrian Ruys with "Land Life Box," Chintan Shah with "Tvilight," Lara van Druten with "Waste Transformers" and Hompe Heijmerink with "Evening Breeze." The winner of the Green Aruba Challenge will receive financial support from KLM on Aruba for a quick implementation of the business concept. □



cialization of aviation biofuels in Europe. KLM and the Dutch government chose Aruba and Bonaire as the best destination for these flights because both islands have a high sustainability

agenda, aiming to be carbon neutral by 2020. Aruba aims to have a 100 per cent sustainable economy by 2020.

A large delegation was on-board, including Ca-



miel Eurlings, President & CEO KLM, Jos Nijhuis, CEO Schiphol Group, Paul Riemens, CEO LVNL and chair of CANSO, Johan van de Gronden, CEO of WWF-NL, Andrea Debbane, Head of

Environmental Affairs Airbus Group, and Paul Verhoef, Head of Unit Renewable Energy Resources of the European Commission. The President of Carbon War Room Jose Maria Figueres



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dez' kitchen every Monday. Whether choosing Fried Fish Basket for only \$15 or a delicious Red Snapper for \$20, you wish it was Monday every day! Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was only logical Chef Marc Hernandez likes to go wild when it comes to his cooking. Caught in the morning, served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start. Crazy Fish Monday is served from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till

midnight. Start your day of right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to enjoy a casual lunch in between sunbathing. A few nights a week Bugaloe is host to some of the best live bands of Aruba, while you are savoring dinner and enjoying the beautiful Aruba Sunset! Don't forget to make one hour in the day even happier at Bugaloe's daily Happy Hour from 5 till 6 p.m. Reservations are not necessary, just follow your hips to the music and the fun and smiles saluting you! ☐

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Elderly Group Flor Di Brazil visits Alhambra Casino



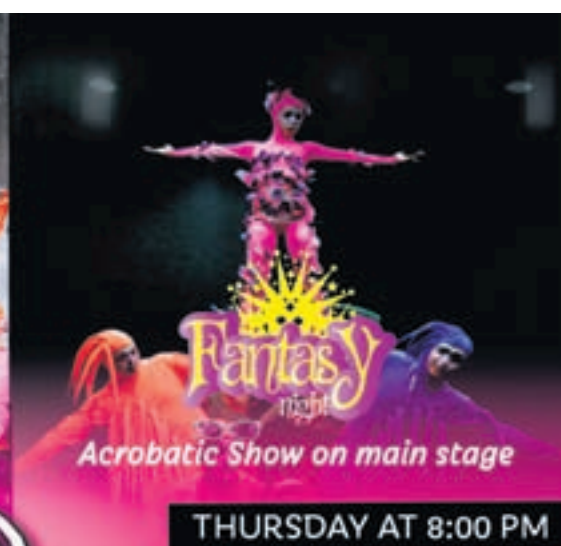
PUNTA BRABO - It was an honor and great pleasure for Alhambra Casino to receive the visit of elderly group Flor Di Brazil. About a month ago the leader of the group called the Marketing department of Alhambra Casino to announce their visit on May 14, 2014. Mrs. Annie Dirksz and her Marketing team started immediately with the preparations to receive the group, in order for them to have a good time during their visit. The group consists of 85 persons and they are visiting Alhambra for many years. They



consider Alhambra Casino their second home. All members were welcomed at the door and receive a ticket to play at one of



our machines. Also a banquet with hot pastechi, and sweet drigidek was set up by Mr. Oscar van de L'Isle and Shirley Adamus. Fruit punch, orange juice, coffee and tea were prepared for refreshment and ice cold water which is a must for the group. They danced at the rhythm of cultural music and caha



di orgel. Alhambra Casino is always ready to receive the elderly groups of Aruba because they were the people who worked very hard in their lives and build the progress we have now

and now, it is time for them to relax and enjoy the company of family and friends. A sincere gratitude to Flor di Brazil to choose Alhambra Casino and hope to see you back soon. □



Serena Williams smiles as she holds the trophy after winning the final match against Italy's Sara Errani at the Italian open tennis tournament in Rome, Sunday, May 18, 2014. Serena Williams kept the crowd from being a factor in a 6-3, 6-0 victory over 10th-seeded Sara Errani to win the Italian Open for the third time Sunday.
Associated Press

Djokovic dedicates Rome title to flood victims

ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Novak Djokovic is going to the French Open with a big clay-court victory in his pocket. And a heavy heart. Djokovic extended his recent dominance over Rafael Nadal by rallying for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory Sunday to win the Italian Open for the third time — then dedicated the title to his flood-hit native Serbia by carving a heart on the clay with his racket.

"This heart on the court is for you," he told the fans in Italian during the victory celebration. "It's also a special dedication to my country, which is suffering a lot right now. My heart is with them."

In the women's final, Serena Williams kept the crowd from being a factor in a 6-3, 6-0 victory over 10th-seeded home favorite Sara Errani to win her third Rome title.

Continued on page 22



BY GEORGE

Pacers blister Heat in Game 1

Indiana Pacers' Paul George puts up a shot against Miami Heat's Chris Bosh during the second half of Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series, Sunday, May 18, 2014, in Indianapolis.

Page 20

Todd wins Byron Nelson for 1st PGA Tour title

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas (AP) —

Brendon Todd won the Byron Nelson Championship on Sunday for his first PGA Tour title, closing with a bogey-free 4-under 66 for a two-stroke victory over Mike Weir.

It was the 77th career PGA Tour event for Todd. He earned \$1,242,000, a two-year PGA Tour exemption and a spot next year in the Masters.

"I'm excited about the relief like I finally have a chance to play the PGA Tour for multiple years," Todd said. "No. 1, going to Augusta for the Masters is a

dream come true."

Todd finished at 14-under 266. He took the lead for good with birdies at Nos. 9 and 10, and went on to become the eighth first-time winner this season.

Weir, the 2003 Masters champion who won the last of his eight PGA Tour titles in 2007, finished with a 67. Charles Howell III and Marc Leishman tied for third at 10 under.

After Todd hit his tee shot at the 195-yard second into a greenside bunker, his shot from the sand landed on the green and rolled in for a birdie. When he knocked in a 14-foot birdie putt at the 181-yard fifth, he tied Weir

— who made a bogey on No. 6 — for the lead at 12 under.

Todd took the lead for good with consecutive birdies midway through his round, a 6-footer at No. 9 and a 24-footer at No. 10. Weir had his best tournament since finishing second behind Dustin Johnson at Pebble Beach in 2009. The Canadian left-hander hadn't had a top-25 finish since 2010,

Brendon Todd holds up the trophy after winning the Byron Nelson Championship golf tournament, Sunday, May 18, 2014, in Irving, Texas.

Associated Press



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the same year he suffered a partial ligament tear in his right elbow before a stretch when he missed 17 cuts in a row — including all 14 tournaments he started in 2012.

"Best golf I played in a long time. I was happy with the way I played," Weir said. "I was definitely determined to try to win today, but I can feel good about the way I handled things out there."

Howell shot a 67 with a three-putt bogey on the final hole, while Leishman had three bogeys in a five-hole stretch on the back nine for a closing 68.

Todd is the fifth former University of Georgia player to win on the PGA Tour this season. He joined Masters champion Bubba Watson, Harris English, Russell Henley and Chris Kirk.

An errant tee shot at the 185-yard 13th that settled at the base of a tree, forcing the slender 6-foot-3 Todd to set up left-handed — which would have been natural for the 44-year-old Weir — and strike the ball with the back of his bladed club. The ball popped up slightly and rolled to 7 feet of the cup, and Todd saved par.

"It was a dream week for

me on the golf course," Todd said. "Felt like I absolutely scored my pants off. It was just a short game display. I have a great short game, and even I'll say it was special this week."

Todd played his last 31 holes at TPC Four Seasons without a bogey.

Weir had birdies on four of the first five holes. He was 13 under and ahead of Todd by two strokes when his tee shot at No. 5 settled 1½ feet from the cup. That came after Weir blindly hit out of a fairway bunker to 3 feet at No. 4.

But Weir missed the fairway and green for a bogey at the 431-yard sixth hole at the same time Todd was tapping in at the fifth.

Boo Weekley (68) was 9 under to tie for fifth with James Hahn (70). Weekley is the defending champion at Colonial, about 30 miles away and the next tournament.

Louis Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open in the final group with Todd, had already slipped four strokes back at the turn before bogeys at Nos. 10-11. The 2010 British Open champion shot 74, 10 strokes worse than Saturday, to tie for 11th at 6 under. □

NHL Playoffs

Crawford leads Blackhawks past Kings 3-1 in Game 1

JAY COHEN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Corey Crawford made 25 saves and Jonathan Toews scored an important goal in the third period as the Chicago Blackhawks beat the Los Angeles Kings 3-1 in Game 1 of the Western Conference final Sunday. Brandon Saad added a goal and an assist for defending Stanley Cup champion Chicago, which remained perfect in seven home playoff games this year. Duncan Keith had a tiebreaking score in the third period.

Playing just two days after a Game 7 victory over Anaheim, the Kings got a second-period score from Tyler Toffoli and outshot the Blackhawks 26-20 in the opener of a rematch from last year's Western Conference final. But Crawford made a couple of solid stops in another terrific per-

formance.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night.

With the Blackhawks clinging to a 2-1 lead in the third, Toews got loose on a 3-on-1 break and one-timed Johnny Oduya's pass right by Jonathan Quick for his sixth playoff goal at 16:10. Quick made 17 saves after he played a key role in Los Angeles' rally from a 3-2 deficit in the series against the Ducks. The Kings also battled back from a 3-0 deficit against San Jose in the first round.

Toews' 26th career playoff goal came after he had one waved off in a confusing stretch in the second period.

It looked as if Chicago had a 2-0 lead when Toews' rush to the net resulted in the puck going off the skate of Kings defenseman Slava Voynov and into the goal. But it was waved off



Chicago Blackhawks' Jonathan Toews (19) controls the puck against Los Angeles Kings' Anze Kopitar (11) during the second period in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals in the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs in Chicago on Sunday, May 18, 2014.

Associated Press

after a conference by the officials, prompting a round of boos from the crowd of 21,832 and a waving, yelling display from Blackhawks coach Joel Quenn-

eville.

According to the NHL, the original call of good goal was changed because the officials decided Toews made incidental contact

with Quick before the puck crossed the goal line. The league said the ruling was not reviewable, so the call on the ice remained in place. □

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Indiana Pacers center Roy Hibbert (55) shoots over Miami Heat center Chris Bosh (1) during the first half of Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series, Sunday, May 18, 2014, in Indianapolis.

MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Indiana is done talking about home-court advantage. The top-seeded Pacers are ready to use it against the two-time defending champs. They took the first step Sun-

day, when Paul George finished with 24 points and seven assists, David West added 19 points and seven rebounds, and suddenly surging Indiana led wire-to-wire in a 107-96 victory over the Miami Heat in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

Associated Press

NBA Playoffs

Pacers pull away from Heat 107-96 to take 1-0 lead

"This is just a fun matchup," George said. "It's one that we've been waiting for all year."

For the first time in this year's playoffs, the Pacers won a series opener. And for the first time in their last three playoff battles against the Heat, the Pacers won Game 1.

Game 2 is Tuesday night. The home team has won all five games in this season's fiercest and most competitive rivalry, though none was more impressive or important than this one. All five Indiana starters and backup C.J. Watson scored in double figures, helping Indiana produce its highest point total of the playoffs.

The Pacers limited the Heat to just four offensive rebounds and 6-of-23 shooting from beyond the arc. LeBron James went 1 of 5 on 3s and shot just two free throws, and Miami fell so

far behind so fast, it never even had a chance to tie the score.

Sure, opening this best-of-seven series at Bankers Life Fieldhouse helped. The hometown crowd that sometimes serenaded the Pacers with boos during the first two rounds spent most of the first half on its feet, chanted "De-fense" every time it looked as if the Heat might come back and finished the game with its customary chant of "Beat The Heat!"

But the biggest difference was on the court.

Indiana shared the ball, limited its turnovers, maintained its poise and got contributions from everyone in a game it had to win. Roy Hibbert finished with 19 points and nine rebounds, Lance Stephenson had 17 points and eight assists, and George Hill added 15 points as the Pacers looked more like the team that was so dominant over the first half of the season, rather than the one struggled so mightily in the second half.

The challengers in this matchup insist they know it's only a start.

"There's nothing to celebrate. It's not like we won a championship. It's one game," Hill said. "Yes, it was good, but if we come out and lay an egg on Tuesday, this game doesn't mean anything."

The toughest part for the Heat will be figuring out what went wrong.

Coach Erik Spoelstra used Shane Battier in the starting lineup, then replaced him with Udonis Haslem after the Pacers took a 55-45 halftime lead. It made no difference.

James, who had 25 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, and Dwyane Wade, who had 27 points on 12-of-18 shooting, desperately tried to rally the Heat but got little help. Chris Bosh

had nine points and two rebounds. Ray Allen finished with 12 points.

While Bosh thought the primary problem was Miami's inability to get stops, James wasn't as sure.

"The game's still so fresh. It's too hard to just say, 'Well, we need to do this better in Game 2,'" James said after the Heat lost for just the second time in 10 playoff games. "We need to evaluate our mistakes and things we did in Game 1 first before I can say what we need to bring to Game 2."

Clearly, the Pacers weren't the same team that spent most of the last three months answering questions about their second-half swoon.

Indiana swarmed the glass, exploited its size advantage, knocked down six of its first seven 3-pointers and forced the Heat into playing catch-up.

When the Heat cut a 10-point, first-quarter deficit to 41-37 midway through the second quarter, Stephenson scored four points in a 5-0 run to make it 46-37. When James trimmed it to 50-45 with back-to-back baskets late in the quarter, the Pacers ended the half with five straight points to make it 55-45.

Hibbert and West then combined eight of Indiana's first 14 points to open the second half, pushing the lead to 69-52.

James and Wade rallied the Heat within 83-74 early in the fourth, but the Pacers opened it up again to 102-84 with 4:11 to go.

Now comes the hard part - doing it all over again Tuesday night.

"We've been complacent many times. We just can't get complacent," George said. "We've got to stay humbled off this win and come in with the same mind-set that we have to get another one." □

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Gatlin wins 100 at Shanghai Diamond League meet

JUSTIN BERGMAN
Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — Justin Gatlin cruised to victory in the 100 meters at the Shanghai Diamond League meet on Sunday, while Chinese hurdler Xie Wenjun got the loudest cheer of the night by upsetting world champion David Oliver in the 110-meter hurdles.

Gatlin, the 2004 Olympic champion, got off to a good start and pulled away from the field after 60 meters, finishing in 9.92 seconds — the fastest time in the world this year. Jamaica's Nesta Carter was 0.2 seconds back in second and American Michael Rodgers was third.

"I have much more left in the tank," Gatlin said. "I cruised at 9.92 with no wind. I felt I made it look easy."

Gatlin was the only sprinter to beat Jamaican star Usain Bolt last year, edging him at the line in the 100 in Rome last June. But the American couldn't match that feat when it mattered, falling to Bolt at the worlds in Moscow two months later.

Bolt didn't compete in Shanghai this year, but Gatlin believes he sent the defending world and Olympic champion a message with his impressive time on Sunday.

"I think a lot of people take the off-year (between the Olympics and worlds) for granted. They want to use it as a rest year, just show their face, but I think this year is the year where you really show your talent," Gatlin said.

With injured 2004 Olympic hurdling champion Liu Xiang watching in the stands, Xie held off a fast-charging Oliver and Pascal Martinot-Lagarde of



Justin Gatlin of the United States, center crosses the finish line first next to Michael Rodgers of the United States at left and China's Su Bingtian at right during the Men's 100m competitions at the Diamond League Track and Field meet held in Shanghai, China, Sunday, May 18, 2014.

Associated Press

France to win the hurdles in a personal-best time of 13.23 seconds. Martinot-Lagarde was second in 13.26, 0.2 seconds ahead of Oliver.

"I didn't expect I could finish first in today's race because all my rivals are world-class athletes, like David Oliver," Xie said. "So it's a great surprise and great pleasure for me to win at home."

Xie's teammate, Liu, hasn't competed since crashing out of the 2012 London Olympics with a ruptured Achilles tendon and undergoing surgery. His coach said Saturday he's aiming to return next spring, with an eye toward competing at the 2015 world championships in Beijing.

Nigeria's Blessing Okagbare got a double victory in Shanghai, winning the women's long jump with a leap of 6.86 meters on her first attempt and then capturing the 200 in 22.36 seconds.

"I was just going out there to do my best," she said. "If I execute properly, I wouldn't get less than a win."

Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who won the 100 last week at the season-opening Diamond League meet in Qatar, dropped out before the start with a shin injury, and her countrywoman, Veronica Campbell-Brown, who missed much of last season because of a doping ban that was later overturned, finished fifth.

Campbell-Brown, a two-time Olympic gold medalist in the 200, tested positive for a banned diuretic at a meet in Jamaica last May, but denied intentionally taking any prohibited substance. The Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld her appeal against a two-year doping ban in February, citing flaws in the test collection procedures

and possible "environmental contamination" of her urine sample.

"I've been doing track and field all my life and the honest truth is I've never used drugs in my life. I don't know where that (positive test) come from. And to sit there knowing what I know, I have to sit there and watch 2013 go by, it's heart-wrenching," Campbell-Brown said. "I know sooner or later I will get back into the shape I want to be."

Jamaica had just one winner on the night in Novlene Williams-Mills, who took the women's 400 in 50.31. She was just 0.6 seconds ahead of former world champion Amantle Montsho of Botswana.

American Allyson Felix was fifth in her first race since collapsing on the track with a torn hamstring at last year's worlds.

Another American, Emma Coburn, surprised the field

in the women's 3,000 steeplechase, beating all three medalists at last year's worlds in a time of 9 minutes, 19.80 seconds. A two-time NCAA champion at the University of Colorado, she took the lead on the first lap and opened up a 70-meter gap with two laps to go.

Americans also captured two other events: Michael Tinsley won the men's 400 hurdles and Christian Cantwell led an American sweep of the shot put.

Frenchman Renaud Lavillenie continued his dominance in the pole vault, winning easily with a leap of 5.92 meters, while Sweden's Abeba Aregawi won the women's 1,500 in 3 minutes, 58.72 seconds. □

Associated Press Bekele wins Great Manchester Run

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Ethiopian distance great Kenenisa Bekele has won the Great Manchester Run, seeing off Wilson Kipsang of Kenya in the 10-kilometer race Sunday.

The 5,000 and 10,000 world record holder, who broke the Paris course record on his marathon debut last month, posted a time of 28 minutes and 23 seconds in the northern English city.

Marathon world record holder Kipsang ended five seconds back in the first ever race between the pair over any distance.

Bekele hasn't lost over 10 kilometers since 2001, when he finished second behind Haile Gebrselassie at the Great Ethiopian Run that year. □

Weening wins 9th stage of Giro, Evans in lead

SESTOLA, Italy (AP) — Pieter Weening of the Netherlands edged out Davide Malacarne to win the ninth stage of the Giro d'Italia on Sunday, while Cadel Evans retained the overall lead.

Weening had been part of a breakaway group and apologized to Malacarne as he sprinted past him at the end of the final climb of the 172-kilometer (107-mile) leg from Lugo to Sestola for his second individual victory.

A final burst from Domenico Pozzovivo saw the Italian cyclist finish third, 42 seconds behind, with the peloton coming in 1 minute, 8 seconds after Weening.

"The guys weren't working perfect in the group and it went slightly uphill," Weening said. "At the roundabout I saw everybody going the wrong way around and I came full speed on

the right side and I felt that this was the moment. Normally you wait for the climb but this climb is not so steep to attack, so I thought I would attack before the climb."

The top three in the overall standings remained unchanged and Evans has a 57-second advantage over Rigoberto Uran. Rafal Majka is third, while Pozzovivo moved up into fourth, 1:20 behind Evans.

"I think we have to be satisfied with our work so far," Evans said. "The team, they put me in the position I'm in now. I'm very proud of my guys and we will rest well tomorrow."

Despite a relatively flat opening half of the stage, the break took a while to form with the peloton holding the pace high.

A group of 14 riders eventually escaped 50K (31



Pieter Weening celebrates after winning the 9th stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, from Lugo to Sestola, Italy, Sunday, May 18, 2014.

Associated Press

miles) in and swiftly built an advantage of more than seven minutes as the peloton seemed happy to let them go, with no threat to the overall lead among the escapees.

However, with 35K (22 miles) remaining, BMC put its foot down and the pelo-

ton started slashing the gap which dropped to 3:19 at the top of the second and penultimate climb.

Weening saw the danger and made his move, followed by Malacarne. The pair built up an advantage of more than 35 seconds with 12K (7.5 miles)

remaining and that was up to a minute as they approached the steepest part of the final climb, with gradients of 14 percent.

The duo worked together before becoming more cagey in the final kilometer, each waiting for the other to start the sprint. Malacarne made his move with 250 meters to go, but Weening rounded him to take his second victory in this year's race, after helping Orica-GreenEdge win the opening time trial.

Pozzovivo jumped from the peloton with less than 5K (3 miles) remaining, catching and passing Enrico Barbin to finish third.

Monday is a rest day before Tuesday's 10th stage, which is one for the sprinters — a flat 173K (107.5-mile) leg from Modena to Salsomaggiore.

Djokovic

Continued from page 17

Errani was bidding to become the first Italian to win the tournament in nearly 30 years but the top-ranked Williams quickly took control in both sets and Errani was slowed by a left thigh problem.

Williams had a left thigh problem herself last week that prompted her to withdraw before her quarterfinal match at the Madrid Open but now she appears back on track for the French, which starts next Sunday.

"I'm not 100 percent but I'm just kind of going on adrenaline," the top-ranked American said. Djokovic found his motivation from a different source.

Authorities say 25 people have died in the Balkans because of the worst flooding in a century after three months' worth of rain fell on the region in three days this week. Tens of thousands of homes were left without electricity or drinking water.

"I'm trying to contribute in my own way," Djokovic said. "These are very critical times for our country



Serbia's Novak Djokovic carves a heart on the clay with his racket to celebrate his title at the Italian open tennis tournament in Rome, Sunday, May 18, 2014.

Associated Press

and our people. But we're being united and this win and this trophy is dedicated to them."

Having also been beaten in Monte Carlo and Barcelona recently, it marked the first time in a decade that the top-ranked Nadal has lost more than two matches on clay in the same year. Nadal was pushed to three sets in four out of his five

matches here.

"When he hit the first ball good a lot of times it was very difficult to arrive to the ball and change the dynamic of the point," Nadal said. "I didn't have enough energy to hit the first shot with the right intensity."

The second-ranked Djokovic has now won four straight matches against Nadal — the previous three

in straight sets — and takes the psychological edge to Paris.

"It gives me a lot of confidence winning against Rafa in the finals of a big tournament on clay," he said. "It's definitely a confidence booster. It's an ultimate challenge and I'm very happy with my game so far and hopefully I can carry that into Roland Garros."

The French Open is the only Grand Slam that Djokovic has yet to win, with his best result a runner-up finish in 2012. Nadal has won the tournament eight times. Djokovic was able to dictate play by stepping inside the baseline.

"I tried to be aggressive from the start to the end," said Djokovic, whose other Rome titles came in 2008 and 2011. "I know that the only way to win against him is to be aggressive."

Earlier, Errani left the court for an injury timeout while trailing 5-3 in the opening set and came back with her thigh bandaged. On the final point before she left the court, Errani pulled up and let a shot from Williams pass by her without even attempting to get to it.

"I'm sorry. You were unbe-

lievable all week," Errani told fans during the victory ceremony, as she brushed back tears. "I tried to do my best and stayed on the court only for you."

Williams' other Rome titles came in 2002 and last year — and she went on to win the French Open on both occasions.

"I'm also sorry for Sara today," Williams told the crowd in Italian. "She really played great all week."

Organizers attempted to whip up patriotic fervor by having the Italian anthem sung before the players walked out onto the court, and fans continuously chanted "Sara, Sara" to try and encourage Errani in an atmosphere that more resembled a Davis Cup or Fed Cup setting.

But Williams jumped out to a 3-0 lead and while Errani had a few chances to get back into the first set, Williams overpowered the Italian with her serve — she had seven aces to Errani's none — and overall attacking game.

Still, Errani could console herself by becoming the first Italian finalist in the tournament since Raffaella Reggi took the 1985 title in Taranto.

Cuba mobile email experiment causes chaos

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — On an island where most people have no Internet access, the arrival of mobile phone email service was embraced with joy.

Tens of thousands of Cubans began emailing like crazy in March — for days, until the service started to fail, taking much of Cuba's already shaky voice and text-messaging mobile service down with it. The island's aging cellphone towers became swamped by the new flood of email traffic, creating havoc for anyone trying to use the system. Users had to make eight or nine attempts to successfully send an email. Even voice calls by non-subscribers' began to drop mid-conversation. Callers sounded like they were phoning from the bottom of the sea. Ordinary text messages arrived days late, or not at all.

Since then, the state telecom monopoly Etecsa has issued a rare apology and the troubles have eased. But problems with the service, dubbed Nauta, offer a rare window into the Internet in Cuba, where the digital age has been achingly slow to spread since arriving in 1996, leaving the country virtually isolated from the world of streaming video, photo-sharing and 4G cellphones. Cuba's government blames the technological problems on a U.S. embargo that prevents most American businesses from selling products to the Caribbean country. Critics of the government say it deliberately strangles the

Internet to halt the spread of dissent. Other observers offer a less political explanation: a government desperate for foreign exchange is investing little in infrastructure improvements while extracting as much revenue as possible from communications services largely paid for by Cubans' wealthier overseas relatives.

Experts say that last explanation appears to be the primary culprit in the case of Nauta, in which the government tried to open connections with the world but floundered due to apparent poor planning and underinvestment.

"Cuba is extremely broke," said Larry Press, a professor of information systems and expert on Cuban telecommunications at California State University, Dominguez Hills. "If they had access to tons of capital they would probably expand (Internet service) further."

About 100,000 people — around 5 percent of Cuban cellphone users — had subscribed to the service even though it cost 50 times that of many U.S. data plans.

Radio scriptwriter Lisandra Ayala, 36, stood in line for hours in March outside an Etecsa office, dreaming of zipping emails back and forth with her favorite cousin in Canada. Like many Cubans, she has long had a smartphone — a status symbol frequently brought in by visiting relatives.

She paid \$1.50 to sign up for a Nauta contract that was supposed to let her send emails with the ability



In this May 9, 2014 photo, a cellphone owner shows the screen on his phone that reads in Spanish: "The configuration has not been able to finish. Cannot connect to server.," as he tries to connect to the Etecsa server while waiting with other customers outside the offices of the state telecom monopoly Etecsa in Havana, Cuba.

Associated Press

to attach photos, but not send video or check the Web. Even the price of \$1 per megabyte, many times higher than in virtually any developed country, didn't deter her.

"I was so excited at first, but then the experience turned into a total disaster," Ayala said. After a week of decent service, she found it impossible to open the icon for Nauta without trying at least six times; voice calls dropped or didn't go through and text messages disappeared mid-air.

"We have been preparing for more than a year," Hilda Arias, director of Etecsa, told official media late last month. "Customers' expectations really exceeded our vision ... this provoked an overload." She promised that the situation would improve, albeit slowly.

With cellular rates as high

as 35 cents a minute for domestic calls, Etecsa earned roughly \$500 million last year, revenue that's been rising slowly since 2008, according to Emilio Morales, a systems engineer who heads the Miami-based Havana Consulting Group, a private consultant that analyzes Cuba's scanty public information about government revenues and operations to produce estimates widely considered reliable by Cuba-watchers.

"There are few businesses in Cuba that work as well as Etecsa," he said.

The group's studies show that 54 percent of payments to Etecsa come directly from the Cuban diaspora. Morales believes Cubans pay much of the rest out of the estimated \$2.6 billion a year in remittances from abroad. And, while most state workers only

make \$20 a month, a new class of roughly 400,000 independent businessmen and their employees also make heavy use of cellphones for advertising with text-message as well as ordinary business calls. Authorities here say they are trying to offer a range of new Internet services by year's end, including mobile Web access and unrestricted home Internet access, currently limited to select government officials and employees of foreign businesses and embassies. But customers remain wary. "Nauta failed and stopped the whole mobile communication system from working properly," said Indira Perez, a 24-year-old university employee. "If they don't prepare themselves better when they want to broaden Internet access, it's going to be total chaos."

Senate: Firms must protect against malicious ads

By JACK GILLUM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Senate warned Google, Yahoo and other leading technology companies Thursday they need to better protect consumers from hackers exploiting their lucrative online advertising networks or risk new legislation that would force them to do so.

In a new investigative report, the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations said hackers in some cases are infecting computers using software or programming commands hidden inside online advertisements. It suggested tougher U.S. regulations or new laws that could punish the ad networks in addition to prosecuting the

hackers.

Yahoo's chief information security officer, Alex Stamos, on Thursday described ways that Yahoo tries to protect Internet users, such as blocking deceptive ads that mimic operating system messages to trick users. He called the problem "a top priority for Yahoo."

"We successfully block the vast majority of malicious or

deceptive advertisements with which bad actors attack our network, and we always strive to defeat those who would compromise our customers' security," Stamos said.

Google's George Salem, a senior product manager, called the problem "badware," and said Google was working diligently but sometimes reluctant to

publicly discuss its efforts.

"Our goal is to stay one step ahead of malvertisers and not tip them off to our activities," Salem said.

The subcommittee highlighted a December 2013 incident in which an Internet user visited a mainstream website and had all of her personal information stolen via an ad on Yahoo's network.

Investors play it safe as bubble woes grow

BERNARD CONDON
STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street has caught a case of the jitters.

Employers are hiring at their fastest pace in 2 ½ years, the economy is expected to expand by a robust 3.5 percent this quarter and corporate earnings have hit a record. But you wouldn't know it from the way many investors are acting.

They're pouring money into U.S. Treasury bonds, considered the world's safest asset. They're loading up on dull, but reliable utility stocks. They're dumping holdings that would get hurt most from a stalled recovery, like stocks of retailers and risky small companies.

Just a few months ago, investors thought the economy would grow rapidly this year. Now they're not so sure and shifting money around in surprising ways, a sign that confidence remains fragile five years into a recovery.

"It doesn't take much — an itchy-bitsy sell-off — and suddenly everyone is conservative," says Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist at Wells Capital Management. "We've climbed a wall of worry throughout this recovery and we're still doing that."

Many experts had expected a recovery that finally felt like one this year. More companies would be hiring, consumers would spend more, and businesses that had slashed expenses to generate profits would now earn them by selling more. Investors would unload safe government bonds, forcing their prices down and their yields, which move in the opposite direction, up.

But the year is unfolding somewhat off script.

Small-company stocks that are often good bets in an accelerating economy are teetering on a "correction," Wall Street parlance for a drop of 10 percent from a high. Many Internet stocks, the ultimate optimistic bet, passed that level weeks ago — and are still dropping. Meanwhile, utili-

ties — unsexy, but stable — have soared 10 percent so far this year, more than double the gain of any of the other nine sectors in the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

Most surprising is the new ardor for U.S. government bonds. Instead of fleeing them as they had late last year, investors can't seem to buy enough. On Friday, the yield on U.S. Treasury

ing investors to play it safer: Many Americans, still haunted by the financial crisis, don't trust the recovery.

"They're not willing to take risks," says Matt Lloyd, chief investment strategist of Advisors Asset Management. He points to bankers still too scared to lend, CEOs playing it safe by using cash to buy back stocks instead of expanding operations, and

the Labor Department reported that the consumer price index rose a healthy 2 percent in April compared with a year earlier.

Higher inflation can be a sign of economic strength because it usually reflects more spending by shoppers and businesses. But it also is bad for bond investors. The money returned to them when their bond matures will buy less.



Thomas Kaye, third from right, works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Friday, May 16, 2014. Just a few months ago, investors thought the economy would expand rapidly this year. Now they're not so sure and shifting their money around in surprising ways in a sign that a fragile confidence still haunts the recovery five years after it officially began.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

notes maturing in 10 years stood at 2.52 percent, half a percentage point lower than it was just five months. That is a big move for bonds.

There's plenty of reason for caution — a stalled housing recovery, for instance, disappointing first-quarter economic growth in the U.S. and Europe, a possible civil war in Ukraine and a cooling Chinese economy. The flood of money into U.S. government bonds may reflect frustration as much as fear. Investors seeking income may be turning to the U.S. because they're unhappy with the paltry payouts on bonds of other rich countries, such as those of Japan and Germany, where yields are even lower.

But something not as easy to pinpoint, more ephemeral, may also be prompt-

consumers not "buying that fifth TV."

Jeff Klingelhofer, an associate bond portfolio manager at Thornburg Investment Management, says investors are second-guessing the health of the economy. "We've seen these fits and starts of positive economic (news) only to see a few months later disappointing data," he says. So investors are taking a wait-and-see approach.

Many economists suspect the U.S. economy shrank in the first three months of the year, but attribute that to harsh winter weather. They are confident of a big expansion in the current quarter. A raft of recent reports suggests they might be right. Employers added 288,000 jobs in April, the most in 2 ½ years. Americans have stepped up their spending. And on Thursday,

But instead of selling U.S. Treasuries, investors bought on the inflation news, pushing the 10-year yield to its lowest in 10 months.

This year's nervousness follows an exuberant 2013, when the S&P 500-stock index surged nearly 30 percent, not including dividends. By some measures, that has left stocks at dangerous highs compared to earnings, another reason for today's skittishness.

This year, the S&P 500 has hit ten new highs, two this week alone. But they have been on tiny gains, and the index itself is only 1.6 percent higher than it was at the start of the year. On Friday, after waffling between small gains and losses, the index ended slightly higher.

If this is the top of the market, it feels different from previous peaks. □

Patent peace for Google and Apple; finally

BRIAN X. CHEN
© 2014 New York Times

Apple and Google, fierce rivals in mobile software, agreed this weekend to dismiss patent lawsuits related to smartphone technology between the two companies.

The companies said they would work together on patent reform, but clarified that they would not be agreeing to license each other's technologies.

"Apple and Google have agreed to dismiss all the current lawsuits that exist directly between the two companies," the companies said in a joint statement. "Apple and Google have also agreed to work together in some areas of patent reform. The agreement does not include a cross license."

The companies declined to comment on why they had reached the agreement.

Motorola sued Apple for patent infringement in 2010, and Apple sued back. Since then, the two have been battling over patents in nearly two dozen lawsuits in the United States and Europe.

The agreement does not apply to the more prominent patent feud between Apple and Samsung Electronics, even though Google had helped cover some of Samsung's legal costs for the latest patent trial between Apple and Samsung that ended this month. In that trial, a jury decided Samsung had to pay Apple about \$120 million for violating three Apple mobile patents.

Google acquired Motorola Mobility in 2012 for \$12.5 billion and said this year that it planned to sell the Motorola phone business to Lenovo, while keeping the bulk of the patents it inherited in the acquisition. At first glance, it seems shocking that Apple, the iPhone maker, would agree to play nice with Google, which offers Android, by far the most popular mobile operating system in the world. □

Marc Andreessen on the Future of Silicon Valley(s)

NICK BILTON

© 2014 New York Times

Silicon Valley is starting to feel a little less exuberant these days.

Some big startups are having trouble raising money. Others are delaying plans to go public. Hot new technologies like Bitcoin have been struggling. With all the nervous chatter out there - Where is this going? What's next? - I called on Marc Andreessen, who has lived through a bubble or two (or three).

Andreessen, a prominent venture capitalist, has been at the epicenter of the technology business here for two decades. In the early 1990s, he was a co-founder of one of the first major Web browsers, Netscape. He went on to start Ning, an early social site. Now, in addition to being voluble on Twitter, he sits on the board of Facebook, eBay and Hewlett-Packard.

I got 28 minutes with him. But Andreessen speaks so quickly, it felt like an hour and a half.

Saying "bubble" to a venture capitalist around here is like saying "homework" to a teenager. They roll their eyes and try to shoo you away. So rather than ask if we are in the middle of another - ahem - bubble, I asked Andreessen why some young companies can't seem to raise all the money they want.

His answer: Conditions ebb and flow. And right now, they are ebbing for some companies. But for others, capital is still available.

"We have not seen any pullback so far on private investment," Andreessen said. "Actually, what we're seeing is more of the opposite right now. We're seeing a lot more institutional money - in particular from the hedge fund world - crossing over" into tech investing. But what about companies that can't find their way to the stock market, like Box and Square?

Andreessen pointed to 1997 and 1998, when the market for initial public stock offerings was briefly derailed by the Asian financial crisis. Before long, investor interest revved up again, and the Nasdaq stock market was flying high. (A few years later, of course, it came crashing down.)

So if a startup can't go public just now, it's no big deal. "The nature of the public market is that it is maniac depressive," Andreessen said. "It gets excited; it gets depressed."

Speaking of feeling down, I asked Andreessen a question I often hear from people outside Silicon Valley: Why can't other places build their own valley-style tech hubs? People in cities ranging from Dublin to Berlin to New York often ask what they are doing wrong. Andreessen said new valleys will eventually emerge. But they won't be Silicon Valley copycats.

Over the past couple of years, venture firms have invested in startups in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and all over China. LA, for example, is home to Snapchat, Tinder, Whisper, Oculus VR and Beats, some of the big tech stories of the year. Andreessen said another hot place is Atlanta, home of Georgia Tech.

But he offers a caveat.

"My personal view is that Silicon Valley will continue to take a disproportionate share of the No. 1 positions in great new markets, and I think that's just a reflection that the fact that the valley works as well as it does," Andreessen said.

There is a caveat to his caveat.

In Andreessen's view, there shouldn't be 50 Silicon Valleys. Instead, there should be 50 different kinds of Silicon Valley. For example, there could be Biotech Valley, a Stem Cell Valley, a 3-D Printing Valley or a Drone Valley. □

Housing is recovering; family homes aren't

NEIL IRWIN

© 2014 New York Times

The numbers in the latest report on home building activity - which is being closely watched, after many other kinds of data point to a softening in housing - are pretty terrific. The number of permits for new housing units soared 8 percent in April, the Census Bureau said Friday, to an annualized 1.08 million. And the number of homes on which builders began construction rose a whopping 13 percent, to an annualized 1.07 million. If nothing else, the numbers help assuage fears that the housing industry is losing momentum. It now looks as if the rough winter was indeed a major factor

holding back home building activity this year, and there is now a spring thaw underway. But even in the good new numbers, there is a clear trend evident: The entirety of the improvement is coming from more building of housing in structures with five or more units, most commonly rental apartment buildings.

The number of permits issued for single-family homes rose by a mere 2,000 annualized rate in April, where the number for units in these multifamily structures rose by 81,000. The same story applies for housing starts, where the number of single-family homes rose a measly 5,000, versus 124,000 for multifamily units. In other words, if

you think that this housing recovery involves any meaningful increase in the number of traditional, suburban single-family homes with a yard and picket fence, you have it wrong. The number of single-family homes started is well below its level of late last year and still at February 2013 levels. Multifamily construction has been soaring throughout the past five years. Parsing more detailed data available for the first quarter, Jed Kolko, chief economist of the real estate firm Trulia, notes on Twitter that 93 percent of the multifamily construction was intended to be rentals, and 89 percent of the units were in buildings with 20 or more units. □



Construction continues on a high-end apartment building in Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York. Structures with five or more units, most commonly rental apartment buildings, seem to be responsible for a surge in home-building activity -- either the result of the post-recession challenges facing young adults or a shift in consumers' preferences.

(Michael Appleton/The New York Times)

Joint venture to create auto interiors

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Wisconsin-based Johnson Controls is teaming up with a Chinese company to create the world's largest maker of automotive interiors, in a deal announced Sunday. The joint venture between Johnson Controls and China-based Yanfeng Automotive Trim Systems will be based in Shanghai. The new company will make instrument panels, interior systems, door panels and floor consoles, and is expected to have \$7.5 billion in annual sales.

Alex Molinaroli, Johnson Controls' chairman and CEO, said in Sunday's statement that the combined company will be well positioned for sustained growth around the world.

"This also aligns with Johnson Controls' corporate commitment to China, which is increasingly becoming a major center for the global automotive industry," he said.

Yanfeng, a subsidiary of Huayu Automotive Systems Co., will have a 70 percent stake in the new compa-

ny. Johnson Controls will have a 30 percent stake. The transaction is subject to limited conditions, and is expected to close in the first half of next year.

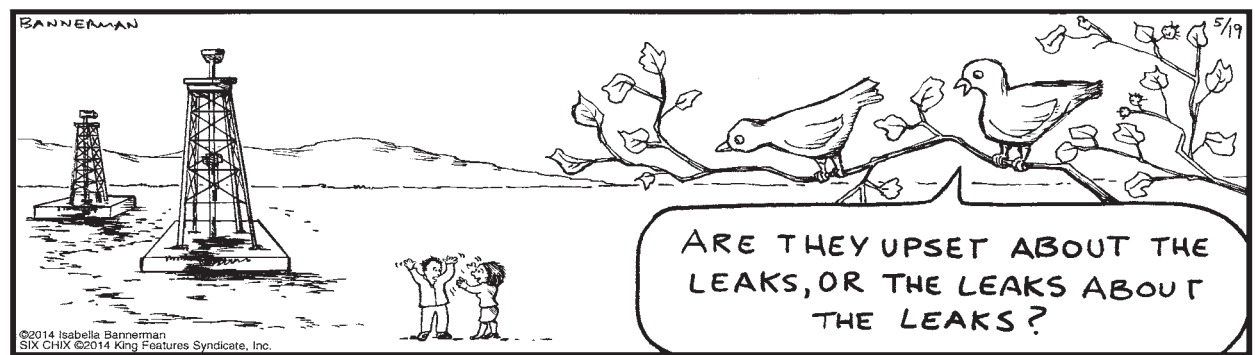
Shares of Johnson Controls closed Friday at \$44.78. The stock has traded in a 52-week range of \$34.40 to \$52.50.

Johnson Controls, headquartered in Milwaukee, has 170,000 employees. The company also makes car seats and batteries for hybrid and electric vehicles. □

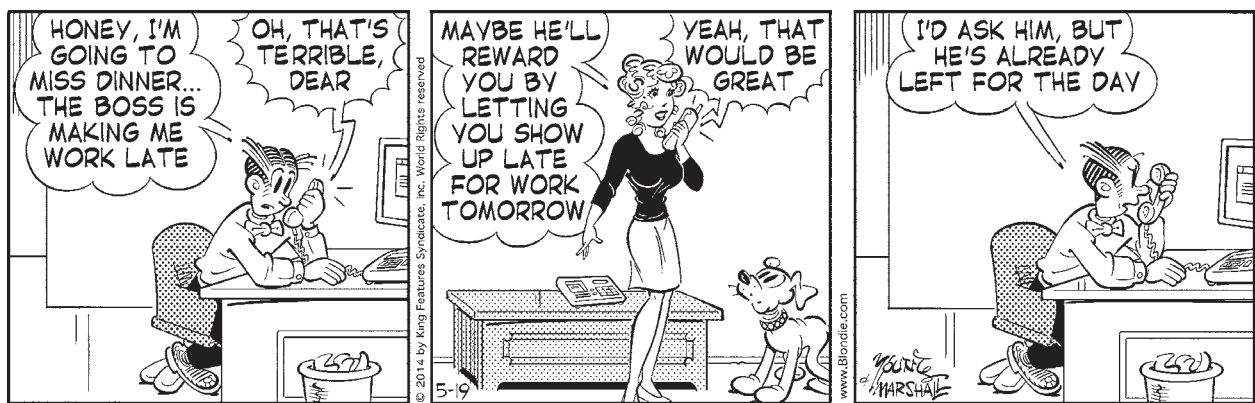
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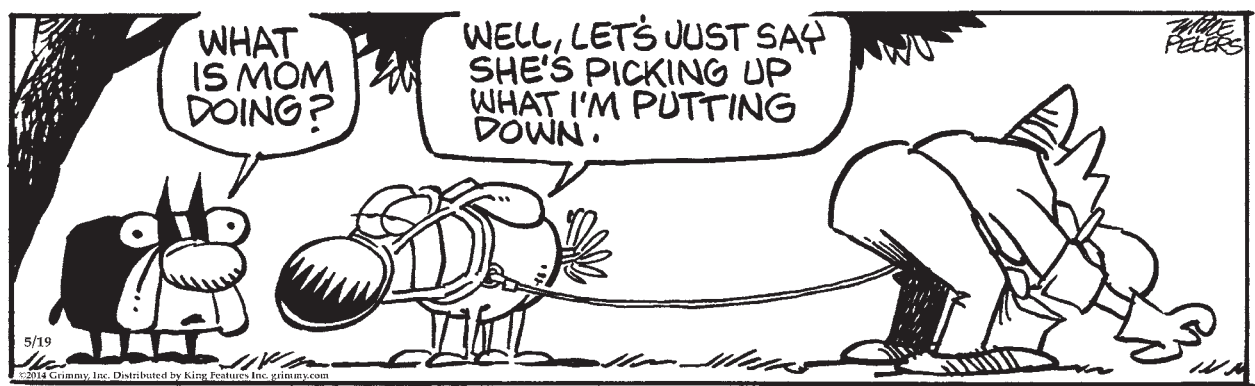
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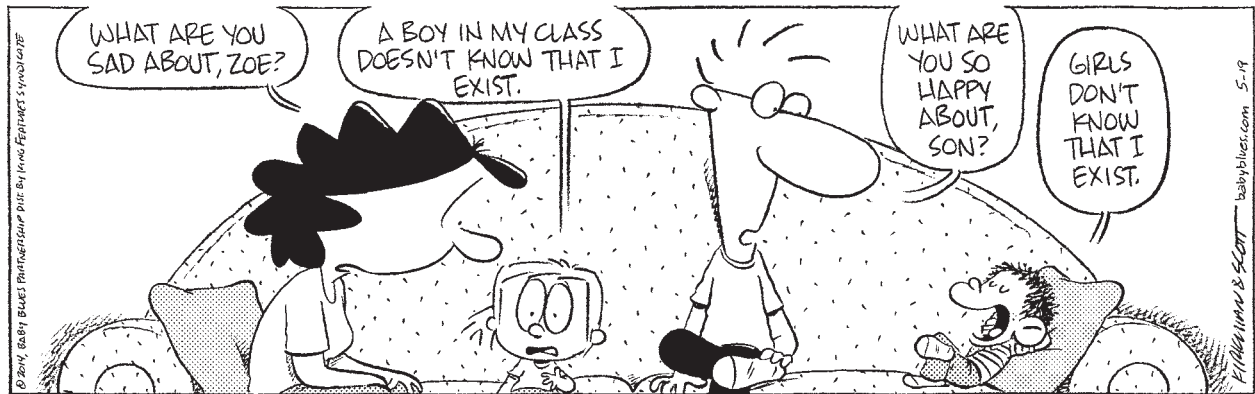
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5		9	4	6		2	
4	3					5		7
				7			4	
8			6					2
3		4				6		1
9					4			5
	1			6				
5		6					8	3
	4		5	2	3		1	

Difficulty Level ★

5/19

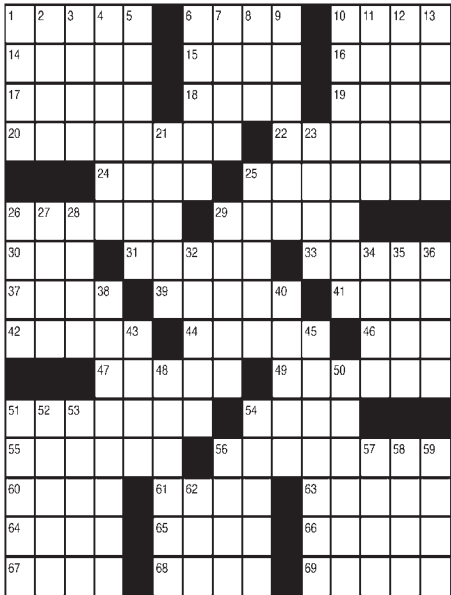
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

8	9	6	5	7	3	1	4	2
2	1	3	8	4	9	7	5	6
5	4	7	2	1	6	9	3	8
1	3	9	4	6	8	5	2	7
7	8	2	1	9	5	4	6	3
6	5	4	7	3	2	8	9	1
9	2	5	6	8	1	3	7	4
3	7	8	9	2	4	6	1	5
4	6	1	3	5	7	2	8	9

ACROSS

- 1 Beneath
6 Lower leg part
10 Genuine
14 Antlered animal
15 Donut's center
16 Therefore
17 Explorer ___ de León
18 Inquires
19 Did a slow ___; began fuming
20 Tennis shoes
22 Hairpiece
24 Color for a baby girl's outfit
25 Serving dish
26 Move upward
29 On the ball
30 Name of 13 popes
31 Canada's migratory birds
33 Long stories
37 Stitched joining
39 Carvey and Delany
41 Wedding veil material
42 Of the eye
44 Arise from bed
46 Tax-deferred retirement acct.
47 TV's "___ Pyle"
49 Actor James ___
51 More terrifying
54 Space flight agcy.
55 Warsaw's nation
56 Lasts
60 Death notice, for short
61 Capable
63 The "Gem State"
64 Encourage
65 Put bullets into a gun, e.g.
66 At no time
67 Light browns
68 Without
69 Say hello to



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/19/14

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

BUT	EGGOS	ELMO
EKED	NAOMI	NOON
DESI	STAID	TALE
STATUETTE	ODDS	
LIES	KIM	
ASCEND	SHINBONE	
SPICY	SLACK	BIN
WATT	SPARK	HEED
ACE	FAINT	JOYCE
NESTLING	ROUSED	
YUL	BOSS	
SLAP	BAROMETER	
MUCH	OCEAN	OVEN
OAHU	ANDRE	NINE
GUYS	TEDDY	LOT

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5/19/14

DOWN

- 1 Baseball officials, for short
40 Tea sweetener
43 Penny or nickel

- 45 Temporary
48 Awards for Olympians
50 Oakland football player
51 Pouring part of a pitcher
52 Deadly viper
53 Straighten
54 Must-haves
56 Make arrangements
57 Rescue
58 "My Country, 'Tis of ___"
59 Put in order
62 ___ constrictor; crushing snake

In Stockholm, Fare Dodging an Organized Rebellion, and It's Winning

MATT FLEGENHEIMER

© 2014 New York Times

STOCKHOLM - The first target stumbled through the Hornstull metro station here with her nose in her purse, too harried to notice the man sidling up behind her.

She swiped her fare card. A pair of barriers slid apart, and before they could close, two train rides had been unlocked for the price of one.

Too easy, the fare thief announced, returning through the gates.

"I've got a little practice," said the man, Christian Tengblad, 32, stealing a look back at a station agent.

Every transit network has its fare beaters, the riders who view payment as either optional or prohibitively expensive. Many cities, most notably New York, view turnstile-jumpers as a top policing priority, reasoning that scofflaws might graduate to more serious crimes if left alone. But in Stockholm, the offenders seem to have defeated the system.

For more than a decade, Tengblad has belonged to a group known as Planka.nu (rough translation: "free-ride.now"), an organization with only two prerequisites for admission: Members must pay a monthly fee of about \$15 and, as part of a continuous demonstration against the fare, promise to evade payment every time they ride. If travelers keep their side of the agreement, the group will cover any of the roughly \$180 fines that might result. (An unlimited ride pass for 30 days costs about \$120.)

The group's efficiency in evasion has created an enviable business model. Last year, the group took in more than twice as much money - more than \$7,500 per month - as it paid out in fines, organizers said.

The agency that operates the metro system, Stockholm Public Transport, seems to have grown increasingly discouraged, especially after the failure of a recent investment

in taller gates to stop the fare-beaters.

"We could build a Berlin Wall in the metro stations,"

Since Planka's founding 13 years ago, its legend and influence have grown. Although it has about 500 of-

on their own, according to transit officials. Pettersson said that about 15 million trips last year were



Alex Berthelsen, right, slips through subway station gates in Stockholm. A group known as Planka.nu, which roughly translates to free-ride.now, offers instructional videos on slipping through station gates without paying, and it uses monthly dues to cover fines for any members who are nabbed. (Jonathan Nackstrand/The New York Times)

a spokesman, Jesper Pettersson, said. "They would still try to find ways to dodge."

ficial members, the organization has helped lead many thousands more to simply stop paying fares

not paid for - 3 percent of all rides. The Planka Facebook page has more than 30,000 "likes." □

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Studies: Wildfires worse due to global warming

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The devastating wildfires scorching Southern California offer a glimpse of a warmer and more fiery future, according to scientists and federal and international reports.

In the past three months, at least three different studies and reports have warned that wildfires are getting bigger, that man-made climate change is to blame, and it's only going to get worse with more fires starting earlier in the year. While scientists are reluctant to blame global warming for any specific fire, they have been warning for years about how it will lead to more fires and earlier fire seasons.

"The fires in California and here in Arizona are a clear example of what happens as the Earth warms, particularly as the West warms, and the warming caused by humans is making fire season longer and longer with each decade," said University of Arizona geoscientist Jonathan Overpeck.

"It's certainly an example of what we'll see more of in the future."

Since 1984, the area burned by the West's largest wildfires — those of more than 1,000 acres (400 hectares) — have increased by about 87,700 acres (35,500 hectares)



Fire engulfs a structure during a wildfire Thursday, May 15, 2014, in Escondido, Calif. One of the nine fires burning in San Diego County suddenly flared Thursday afternoon and burned close to homes, triggering thousands of new evacuation orders.

Associated Press

a year, according to an April study in the journal Geophysical Research Letters. And the areas where fire has been increasing the most are areas where drought has been worsening and "that certainly points to climate being a major contributor," the study's main author Philip Dennison of the University of Utah said Friday.

The top five years with the most acres burned have all happened in the last decade, according to federal records. From

2010-2013, about 6.4 million acres (2.6 million hectares) a year burned on average; in the 1980s it was 2.9 million acres (1.17 million hectares) a year.

"We are going to see increased fire activity all across the West as the climate warms," Dennison said.

That was one of a dozen "key messages" in the 841-page National Climate Assessment released by the federal government earlier this month. It mentioned wildfires 200 times.

"Increased warming, drought and insect outbreaks, all caused by or linked to climate change have increased wildfires and impacts to people and ecosystems in the Southwest," the federal

report said. "Fire models project more wildfire and increased risks to communities across extensive areas."

Likewise, the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change noted in March that wildfires are on the rise in the western U.S., have killed 103 Americans in 30 years, and will likely get worse.

The immediate cause of the fires can be anything from lightning to arson; the first of the San Diego area fires, which destroyed at least eight houses, an 18-unit condominium complex and two businesses, seemed to start from sparks from faulty construction equipment working on a graded field, said California Department of Forestry

and Fire Protection spokeswoman Lynne Tolmachoff. But the California fires are fueled by three major ingredients: drought, heat and winds. California and Arizona have had their hottest first four months of the year on record, according to National Weather Service records. Parts of Southern California broke records Thursday, racing past 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius). For the past two weeks the entire state of California has been in a severe or worse drought, up from 46 percent a year ago, according to the U.S. drought monitor.

"With the drought this year, we're certainly going to see increased frequency of this type of event," Dennison said. "Because of the drought the fuels (dry plants and trees) are very susceptible to burning."

Another study last month in Geophysical Research Letters linked the ongoing drought to man-made climate change. Other scientists say that is not yet proven.

Scientists will have to do a lot of time-consuming computer simulations before they can officially link the drought to climate change.

But Overpeck said what is clear is that it's not just a drought, but "a hot drought," which is more connected to man-made warming.

The other factor is the unusual early season Santa Ana winds, whose strength is a key factor in whipping the flames. So far, scientists haven't connected early Santa Ana to climate change, Dennison said. □

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'Godzilla' opens with smashing \$93.2 million

JESSICA HERNDON

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Godzilla" has smashed its way to the top of the box office.

The 3-D monster movie from Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures had the second-largest debut of the year this weekend with \$93.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Godzilla" trails Disney-Marvel's "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," which opened with \$95 million in April, and sits just above "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," which debuted with \$91.6 million this month.

Paying homage to the 60-year-old franchise in tone and spectacle, the latest iteration continues the legend of the 1954 Japanese original — Ishiro Honda's "Gojira." Reviews of the film were positive — it earned a "fresh" rating from review aggregator RottenTomatoes.com, with 72 percent of film critics responding positively.

Legendary Pictures Presi-

dent Jon Jashni said the film did better than expected partly because it was "starting to get sampled even by those who didn't think it would necessarily be for them."

They didn't have nostalgic feelings for it." He said friends or family members likely recommended the movie to those viewers.

Jashni added that the success of "Godzilla" is "validating" after last year's "Pacific Rim" and "Jack the Giant Slayer" performed below expectations for the Warner-Legendary team.

The film, directed by Gareth Edwards, also helped eliminate the bad memory of another of the franchise's remakes, Roland Emmerich's "Godzilla," released in 1998 and starring Matthew Broderick. Backed by Sony, the film opened with \$44 million.

Two other reboots — "Godzilla 1985" and "Godzilla 2000" — also flopped.

May is prime real estate for studios looking to launch



This film image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows a scene from "Godzilla."

Associated Press

or advance franchises. The top two opening weekends of all time in North America occurred in May — "The Avengers" opened with \$207.4 million in 2012 and "Iron Man 3" debuted with \$174.1 million in 2013.

"Godzilla," starring Bryan Cranston, Aaron Taylor-

Johnson and Elizabeth Olsen, marks the largest May opening ever for Warner.

It's also the year's biggest opening for Imax globally. It generated \$103 million and 14.35 million admissions from 16,946 screens in 64 markets outside the U.S. and Canada.

"Godzilla" knocked last weekend's No. 1 hit, Universal Pictures "Neighbors," down to No. 2 in its second weekend.

The raunchy Seth Rogen and Zac Efron-led comedy earned \$26 million, bringing its domestic total to \$91.5 million. □

Joaquin Phoenix, James Gray reteam for 'Immigrant'

JESSICA HERNDON

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In James Gray's "The Immigrant," a dismal tale of survival in 1920s New York, Joaquin Phoenix shifts through a gallery of identities, from savior to cad to pitiful loner. His performance — often improvised with co-star Marion Cotillard — is masterfully layered, though his character wasn't initially written that way.

"The character, as written, was much more of a brute," says writer-director Gray, who was inspired to pen "The Immigrant" after learning that his Russian Jewish relatives came to Ellis Island in the '20s.

In the film, Phoenix portrays Bruno Weiss, a charming deceiver who preys on defenseless women at risk of being rejected by immigration agents after arriving at

Ellis Island. Bruno offers to save them but lures them into prostitution once he moves them to his apartment. The Polish Ewa Cybulska (Cotillard) is his latest victim.

But despite the circumstances, Cotillard had decided Ewa wasn't going to be a pushover, and Phoenix had decided Bruno wasn't going to back off.

"(Cotillard) had not only emotional strength, but a physical strength," says Phoenix, sitting next to Gray in a sun-splashed meeting room at a Los Angeles hotel. "There were times where she was like, 'Why would I go into this apartment with him?'" Phoenix recalls.

"No matter what I did, she just looked at me like 'I see right through you.' For a month it was just struggling trying to find a way to ma-

nipulate her and nothing worked," the actor says.

"He improvised a lot of great stuff," says Gray, 45, of Phoenix's performance. "You need to give an actor like him the freedom to roam and find things that are beautiful and unexpected. He can give them to you. But there is no question that a whole host of moments of tremendous anguish are going to come into play because he's involved."

Phoenix gets agitated whenever Gray compliments his acting skills and work ethic. At one point during the interview, he gets up, lights a cigarette and starts pacing across the room. He then locates a dry erase board and writes "SHUT UP" with a red marker. This gets a rise out of Gray, who confirms the two are always like this.



In this Friday, May 9, 2014 photo, screenwriter-director, James Gray, left, and actor Joaquin Phoenix from the film, "The Immigrant," pose for a portrait during an interview in Los Angeles. The movie opens in the U.S. with a limited release on May 16, 2014.

Associated Press

Long-time collaborators, Phoenix and Gray have worked on four films together, including "The Yards," "We Own the Night," "Two

Lovers," and "The Immigrant." And Gray continues to pursue Phoenix to act in his films because, the director proclaims, □

McCartney cancels 2 more Tokyo shows



In this Sept. 30, 2013 photo, Paul McCartney watches Stella McCartney's ready-to-wear Spring/Summer 2014 fashion collection in Paris.

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Paul McCartney canceled his second concert in Tokyo on Sunday, as well as the makeup performance for the one nixed a day earlier, and apologized to his fans for still being sick with a virus.

The former Beatle said on his "Out There Japan Tour 2014" site that he wanted to perform Sunday against doctors' orders, but that his team wouldn't allow it.

"Unfortunately my condition has not improved overnight," he said. "I was really hoping that I'd be feeling better today. I'm so disappointed and sorry to be letting my fans down."

McCartney, 71, got sick Friday, and canceled his

concert at the National Stadium in Tokyo at the last minute Saturday. But he had promised to be well enough to perform Sunday and do an additional concert Monday.

The tour site said McCartney instructed his team to look into rescheduling options. Ticket holders were advised to hold on to them, but where and when the concerts would be held was unclear.

Organizers said McCartney's scheduled performance was still on for Wednesday at Nippon Budokan hall in Tokyo, the same venue where the Beatles took the stage during their visit to Japan in 1966. □

1950s singer Jerry Vale dies in California at 83

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Popular 1950s singer Jerry Vale has died at his California home. He was 83.

A family attorney says Vale died Sunday morning. Harold Levy said Vale had been in declining health.

Born Genaro Louis Vitaliano, Vale started performing in New York supper clubs as a teenager and went on to record more than 50 albums. He was known for his high tenor voice and romantic songs, including his signature tune "Al Di La."

His recording of "The Star-Spangled Banner" in the 1960s was played at sporting events for years.



This 1978 file photo shows singer Jerry Vale. The popular 1950s crooner has died at his California home. He was 83.

Associated Press

He also appeared as himself in the movies "Goodfellas," "Casino" and the TV series "The Sopranos." □



July 10, 1991 photo shows actor Dennis Hopper.

Associated Press

Fans honor Dennis Hopper at 'Easy Rider' festival

SUSAN MONTTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

TAOS, New Mexico (AP) — Motorcyclists and movie fanatics from as far away as Canada made the pilgrimage to northern New Mexico to celebrate Dennis Hopper and his iconic counterculture film "Easy Rider."

Several dozen motorcyclists gathered Saturday in the dusty, adobe encircled plaza in the community of Ranchos de Taos, four miles (6.4 kilometers) south of Taos, to kick off what town officials hope will be an annual event — Dennis Hopper Day — with a rally and ride through some of the places made famous in the 1969 film that co-starred Peter Fonda and Jack Nicholson.

Motorcyclists pulled out of the plaza just before 1 p.m. MDT. Led by a police escort, they started their easy ride on the two-lane road heading out of Taos, a diverse town known for skiing, art and Hispanic and Native American culture. Not unlike scenes in the movie, snow-capped mountains served as a classic backdrop for much of the ride.

Saturday would have been the late actor and

director's 78th birthday. Hopper lived in Taos for years and is buried here.

Town Manager Rick Bellis says the day is aimed at recognizing Hopper's contributions as a resident, filmmaker, supporter of the arts and for simply being a "colorful member" of the community.

"His image really represents the spirit of Taos," Bellis said. "He was independent, slightly eccentric but incredibly talented. He sort of became a symbol for a whole new generation."

Hopper first came to New Mexico in the late 1960s to scout locations for "Easy Rider." Shot on a shoestring budget, the independent film mmed up the hopes and anxieties of the '60s, romanticized the open road and ended up revolutionizing Hollywood by forcing the studio gates to open to a new generation of film school graduates.

"Nothing like this had ever been done before. It was a phenomenon," said John Hellmann, an English professor and a member of the film studies program at Ohio State University.

The appeal of rebellion, motorcycles and the open road have sustained the

popularity of "Easy Rider" over four decades, and town officials are hopeful the film and the legend of Hopper will continue to draw people to Taos.

This marks the first year of the rally and ride, but organizers have plans to add more music and film venues in the coming years. Bellis said Hopper was able to get some of the area's traditional Hispanic and Native American families to open up to outsiders when he first arrived in the '60s. In fact, he was the only person to get permission to film at Taos Pueblo, an American Indian community dating to the late 13th and early 14th centuries that's recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

"He walked across the multicultural borders here. I think that really started with him and the movie and has continued," Bellis said. "In the last few years, we have really become that kind of community that he saw, that there was no difference between our ethnicities and who, when and where we came from."

"We all came here for the same reason, that awe of nature and that spirit of the last of the wild West, that independence," he said. □

Points of No Return



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Recently two research teams, working independently and using different methods, reached an alarming conclusion: The West Antarctic ice sheet is doomed. The sheet's slide into the ocean, and the resulting sharp rise in sea levels, will probably happen slowly. But it's irreversible. Even if we took drastic action to limit global warming right now, this particular process of environmental change has reached a point of no return.

Meanwhile, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida - much of whose state is now fated to sink beneath the waves - weighed in on climate change. Some readers may recall that in 2012, Rubio, asked how old he believed the Earth to be, replied "I'm not a scientist, man." This time, however, he confidently declared the overwhelming scientific consensus on climate change false, although in a later interview he was unable to cite any sources for his skepticism.

So why would the senator make such a statement? The answer is that like that ice sheet, his party's intellectual evolution (or maybe more accurately, its devolution) has reached a point of no return, in which allegiance to false doctrines has become a crucial badge of identity.

I've been thinking a lot lately about the power of doctrines - how support for a false dogma can become politically mandatory, and how overwhelming contrary evidence only makes such dogmas stronger and more extreme. For the most part, I've been focusing on economic issues, but the same story applies with even greater force to climate.

To see how it works, consider a topic I know well: the recent history of inflation scares.

More than five years have passed since many conservatives started warning that the Federal Reserve, by taking action to contain the financial crisis and boost the economy, was setting the stage for runaway inflation. And, to be fair, that wasn't a crazy position to take in 2009; I could have told you it was wrong (and, in fact, I did), but you could see where it was coming from.

Over time, however, as the promised inflation kept failing to arrive, there should have come a point when the inflationistas conceded their error and moved on. In fact, however, few did. Instead, they mostly doubled

down on their predictions of doom, and some moved on to conspiracy theorizing, claiming that high inflation was already happening, but was being concealed by government officials. Why the bad behavior? Nobody likes admitting to mistakes, and all of us - even those of us who try not to - sometimes engage in motivated reasoning, selectively citing facts to support our preconceptions.

But hard as it is to admit one's own errors, it's much harder to admit that your entire political movement got it badly wrong. Inflation phobia has always been closely bound up with right-wing politics; to admit that this phobia was misguided would have meant conceding that one whole side of the political divide was fundamentally off base about how the economy works. So most of the inflationistas have responded to the failure of their prediction by becoming more, not less, extreme in their dogma, which will make it even harder for them ever to admit that they, and the political movement they serve, have been wrong all along.

The same kind of thing is clearly happening on the issue of global warming. There are, obviously, some fundamental factors underlying GOP climate skepticism: The influence of powerful vested interests (including, though by no means limited to, the Koch brothers), plus the party's hostility to any argument for government intervention. But there is clearly also some kind of cumulative process at work. As the evidence for a changing climate keeps accumulating, the Republican Party's commitment to denial just gets stronger.

Think of it this way: Once upon a time it was possible to take climate change seriously while remaining a Republican in good standing. Today, listening to climate scientists gets you excommunicated - hence Rubio's statement, which was effectively a partisan pledge of allegiance. And truly crazy positions are becoming the norm. A decade ago, only the GOP's extremist fringe asserted that global warming was a hoax concocted by a vast global conspiracy of scientists (although even then that fringe included some powerful politicians). Today, such conspiracy theorizing is mainstream within the party, and rapidly becoming mandatory; witch hunts against scientists reporting evidence of warming have become standard operating procedure, and skepticism about climate science is turning into hostility toward science in general.

It's hard to see what could reverse this growing hostility to inconvenient science. As I said, the process of intellectual devolution seems to have reached a point of no return. And that scares me more than the news about that ice sheet. □



It's Now the Canadian Dream



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
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It was in 1931 that the historian James Truslow Adams coined the phrase "the American dream." The American dream is not just a yearning for affluence, Adams said, but also for the chance to overcome barriers and social class, to become the best that we can be. Adams acknowledged that the United States didn't fully live up to that ideal, but he argued that America came closer than anywhere else. Adams was right at the time, and for decades. When my father, an eastern European refugee, reached France after World War II, he was determined to continue to the United States because it was less class bound, more meritocratic and offered more opportunity.

Yet today the American dream has derailed, partly because of growing inequality. Or maybe the American dream has just swapped citizenship, for now it is more likely to be found in Canada or Europe - and a central issue in this year's political campaigns should be how to repatriate it.

A report last month in The New York Times by David Leonhardt and Kevin Quealy noted that the U.S. middle class is no longer the richest in the world, with Canada apparently pulling ahead in median after-tax income. Other countries in Europe are poised to overtake us as well.

In fact, the discrepancy is arguably even greater. Canadians receive essentially free health

care, while Americans pay for part of their health care costs with after-tax dollars. Meanwhile, the U.S. worker toils, on average, 4.6 percent more hours than a Canadian worker, 21 percent more hours than a French worker and an astonishing 28 percent more hours than a German worker, according to data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Canadians and Europeans also live longer, on average, than Americans do. Their children are less likely to die than ours. U.S. women are twice as likely to die as a result of pregnancy or childbirth as Canadian women. And, while our universities are still the best in the world, children in other industrialized countries, on average, get a better education than ours. Most sobering of all: A recent OECD report found that for people ages 16-24, Americans ranked last among rich countries in numeracy and technological proficiency.

Economic mobility is tricky to measure, but several studies show that a child born in the bottom 20 percent economically is less likely to rise to the top in the U.S. than in Europe. A Danish child is twice as likely to rise as an American child.

When our futures are determined to a significant extent at birth, we've reverted to the feudalism that our ancestors fled.

"Equality of opportunity - the 'American dream' - has always been a cherished American ideal," Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel-winning economist at Columbia University, noted in a recent speech. "But data now show that this is a myth: America has become the advanced country not only with the highest level of inequality, but one of those with the least equality of opportunity."

Consider that the U.S. economy has, overall, grown more quickly than France's. But so much of the growth has gone to the top 1 percent that the bottom 99 percent

of French people have done better than the bottom 99 percent of Americans.

Three data points:

- The top 1 percent in the United States now own assets worth more than those held by the entire bottom 90 percent.
- The six Wal-Mart heirs are worth as much as the bottom 41 percent of American households put together.

- The top six hedge fund managers and traders averaged more than \$2 billion each in earnings last year, partly because of the egregious "carried interest" tax break.

President Barack Obama has been unable to get financing for universal prekindergarten; this year's proposed federal budget for pre-K for all, so important to our nation's future, would be a bit more than a single month's earnings for those six tycoons.

Inequality has become a hot topic, propelling Bill de Blasio to become mayor of New York City, turning Sen. Elizabeth Warren into a star, and elevating economist Thomas Piketty into such a demigod that my teenage daughter asked me the other day for his 696-page tome. All this growing awareness is a hopeful sign, because there are policy steps that we could take that would create opportunity and dampen inequality.

We could stop subsidizing private jets and too-big-to-fail banks, and direct those funds to early education programs that help break the cycle of poverty. We can invest less in prisons and more in schools.

We can impose a financial transactions tax and use the proceeds to broaden jobs programs like the earned-income tax credit and career academies. And, as Alan S. Blinder of Princeton University has outlined, we can give companies tax credits for creating new jobs.

It's time to bring the American dream home from exile.

Arizona:

All-Points Bulletin: Who Can Take In a Chihuahua?

FERNANDA SANTOS

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PHOENIX - A pack of 26 stray Chihuahuas rode 2,400 miles in the back of an SUV in late March, a cross-country trip from an animal shelter here to another just outside Philadelphia, where all but one were adopted in days. That same week, a retired orthopedic surgeon, Peter Rork, loaded 30 other Chihuahuas into his retrofitted Cessna 206 and flew them

ports have long included the "four C's," as they are known here: copper, cattle, citrus and cotton. And lately, Chihuahuas could almost join that list. The breed, which traces its roots to Mexico, is so popular in Arizona that some neighborhoods of Phoenix have become overrun with them. Stray Chihuahuas roam the streets, overcrowd animal shelters and have exhausted the charitable network of fos-

risen steadily since 2011 while the number of pit bulls has declined. At the Arizona Humane Society, the state's largest animal welfare agency, Chihuahuas overtook pit bulls this year in number. Since January, the Arizona Chihuahua Rescue, a volunteer organization that takes in Chihuahuas nobody wants, has posted a warning message on its home page: "We are unable to accept any new

America. On average, purebred puppies sell for \$300 or \$400, but Chihuahuas are a lot more common in states bordering Mexico, Bunten said. Shelters in San Antonio, where she lives, are "brimming with Chihuahuas," and in California, several cities have passed ordinances requiring that Chihuahuas be spayed or neutered in an effort to legislate population control.

impression, kind of like the big macho guys get pit bulls to look tough," Bunten said.

A study published by The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association in 2010 found that Hispanics were more likely to own pets that had not been spayed or neutered than were people of other races and ethnicities, a factor that seems to be contributing to the overabundance of Chihuahuas. Hollister, California, where roughly 66 percent of residents are Latino, has seen a "significant drop" in the number of Chihuahuas since passing an ordinance in 2010 mandating that the dogs be spayed or neutered, said Julie Carreiro, supervisor of the Hollister Police Animal Care and Services.

Arizona's Maricopa County, where the shelters take in more animals than any county besides Los Angeles County, is discussing a partnership with one of Phoenix's most popular Spanish-language radio stations, La Campesina, to spread the message that sterilizing dogs "is part of the responsibility of owning a pet," said Melissa Gable, spokeswoman for the county's Animal Care and Control.

The county is also in the middle of a three-year, \$6 million campaign to curb pet homelessness, focusing on Chihuahuas, pit bulls and cats, which are the most commonly found (and euthanized) animals in its shelters. The effort involves trying to increase adoptions and free sterilizations, said Bretta Nelson, a spokeswoman for the Arizona Humane Society.

Chihuahuas are jittery by nature, bark often and loudly, and, like most dogs, bite when they perceive aggression, even if the aggressor is a baby grabbing a tail or a paw. They are "little dogs with a big-dog attitude," said Gable, and it is the failure to understand that sometimes prompts a family to turn them in to a shelter. □



A Chihuahua peeks between the bars at an animal shelter in Phoenix. An abundance of Chihuahuas in Arizona's shelters means the state must find creative means to reduce the population: increasing education, exporting them to other states and requiring they be spayed or neutered. (Samantha Sais/The New York Times)

from Phoenix to Boise, Idaho, where small dogs are a hot commodity. Next month, he will fly about 36 Chihuahuas from Scottsdale, Arizona, to the same destination. "Supply and demand, that's what it boils down to," said Judy Zimet, a real estate lawyer here who serves as executive director of Dog Is My Copilot, Rork's rescue group. "In Phoenix, Chihuahuas are a dime a dozen; in Idaho and Montana, there are so few of them you have to get on a waiting list to adopt them." Arizona's most popular ex-

ter families who take them in but say they can no longer take one more. To avoid euthanizing the dogs, animal welfare workers have started shipping them to faraway states and even repatriating them abroad: Arizona Chihuahuas have emigrated to Canada and Russia, said Joe Pyritz, a spokesman for Pinal County, whose animal shelter cares for Chihuahuas carried by migrants caught crossing the border illegally. Only pit bulls outnumber Chihuahuas in the Maricopa County shelter, and the number of Chihuahuas has

dogs." The reason Chihuahuas and their many mixes are among the dogs most often found in animal shelters, animal-care workers say, lies somewhere in the intersection of geography, pop culture and immigrant tastes. Breeders play a role, too: Some do not realize that female Chihuahuas are so small that they often need a cesarean section, an expensive procedure that can wipe out potential profits and prompt people to abandon the dogs, said Lynnie Bunten, breed rescue chairwoman at the Chihuahua Club of

The dogs are also status symbols of sorts: Chihuahuas have served as the Taco Bell mascot ("Drop the chalupe!"), Disney movie stars (think "Beverly Hills Chihuahua") and fashion accessories for the likes of Paris Hilton and Britney Spears, not to mention Elle Woods in the movie "Legally Blonde." When mixed with other breeds, they go by cutesy names like Chugs (Chihuahuas and pugs), Chiweenies (Chihuahuas and dachshunds) and Chi Pins (Chihuahuas and miniature pinschers). "Young women put them in their purses to make an